

BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME TWENTY • NUMBER TWO

Fall 2008

My Journey to South Korea

As I sat in history class, attempting to listen to one of Mr. Langness' lectures, my mind began to swirl with thoughts of everything but what was being taught. The one that always stuck with me was, "what would it be like to live in another country?" As I grew up, my family never traveled a lot, so the odds of actually leaving the country didn't seem very good at the time, but it was always on my mind.

After finishing high school, I went on to Northern Michigan University to get my degree. My major changed so many times, my parents thought I was studying to be a professional student. During those years, I met a lot of people, too many to remember them all, but one stuck out. Her name was Erin. She was a friend of a friend and I met her while she was home on vacation from teaching English in South Korea. I asked her all the questions I could about how she did it and what qualifications were needed. She made it seem pretty easy, but at the same time I was a little cautious.

Upon receiving my bachelor degree from NMU, I still wasn't sure what to do. The job prospects at that time were not very good and graduate school was not an option I wanted to face. So I recalled what Erin had told me and looked into teaching English overseas. In July of 2002, I enrolled in a pro-

gram called Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). It was a three month course which consisted of online components as well as a one-week seminar. It taught me about the daily duties of a foreign English teacher and what to prepare for when living in another country. As I look back, it

wasn't necessarily needed to get a job overseas, but it provided me with enough information to make a more confident decision. Most of my friends and family thought I was nuts, but I was just looking into it, so what could it hurt?

Questions about my future started to get to me. For the first few months it was okay to say you're still looking for a job, but when nothing was happening, I knew I had to make a

decision. It was two weeks before Christmas when I broke the news to my parents. I had mentioned it to them a few times, but I think they never took me seriously and for good reason. It was six months after graduating from NMU and I still hadn't gotten a job, so when I let them know about this, they thought for sure I wasn't that serious. When my parents asked me when I was leaving they were quite surprised by my response, "the day after Christmas."



Mark Dellangelo ('95) with some of his Korean students.

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Scholarship Campaign

The IHS Alumni Association has been granted IRS 501(c)3 status as a tax exempt, charitable, educational organization, with a purpose of raising scholarship funds for Ishpeming High School graduates. Tax deductible contributions can now be made to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. In 2009 we will launch a scholarship campaign to raise a two million endowment to fund scholarships for Ishpeming High School graduates. Watch for further information and opportunities to contribute to this campaign in future *Beacon Light* editions and in your mail.

-IHS Alumni Association Board of Trustees

I had received my TESOL teaching certificate a few weeks prior and within a week opportunities were pouring in. I was speaking with many companies primarily in the Far East. Most of my opportunities were in Japan and South Korea. As I was eager to go, I went with one of the first companies I had spoken to. Within a few emails and telephone conversations, we had made an arrangement for me to begin working at the Pusan Foreign Language Institute in Pusan, South Korea starting in January.

I taught students from kindergarten through college level. As you can tell, the importance of learning another language was instilled in the students from a very early age. I also taught business professionals before they went to work in the mornings and after they got home from work. A teacher was definitely one of the more respected jobs in their country. Everyday before the students would leave my class, no matter what age, they would say, "Thank you teacher!" It was nice to know you didn't have to worry about behavior problems in the classroom.

When I arrived in South Korea I wasn't sure what to expect. There was definitely a feeling of uneasiness at times since I was in a foreign country with no friends or family nearby. My students were instrumental in making the transition to living in South Korea much easier than expected. They often would take me out to

lunch or dinner after class. Even though I lived above a Pizza Hut and a McDonald's on the corner, I did my best to try as much Korean food as I could. My three favorite dishes were Bi-min bop (over-easy egg, over rice), Tok-go-gee (chicken over rice w/ spicy sauce), and Mandu (beef dumpling). I'll also tried eel. It was better than expected. They took me to places like the ancient Beomeosa Temple, Jagalchi Market (a large fish market along the sea port) and Haeundae Beach (over a million guests on any given weekend). The time I spent with my new friends in South Korea are experiences I will never forget. They allowed me to interact with them, learn their culture and get a firmer grasp on their language.

The year I spent in South Korea, was one of the greatest in my life. To actually spend a whole year and work in another country gave me a greater understanding of how these people live. I was able to teach in their schools, meet new friends, meet their families, taste their food (delicious) and hear their stories. Experiencing a culture so different from my own taught me how to appreciate the life I have and where I come from. My parents just wished I didn't travel half-way around the world to figure that out.

-Mark Dellangelo '95

IHSAA Scholarships Awarded

Three IHS Alumni Association scholarships were awarded to Ishpeming High School graduates in June. The recipients were chosen on a basis of scholarship, leadership, and service. The Association would like to congratulate the 2008 scholarship winners. They are as follows:

Caleb Jay - IHSAA Scholarship

David Bertucci - IHSAA Paul & Cathy Argall Scholarship

Jamie Perry - IHSAA Scholarship—In Memory of Ebba Ecklund & Grace Dunn

Pat Potter Scholarship Fund

The Ishpeming Schools Board of Education recently received a major gift dedicated to the creation of a named scholarship fund. The estate of Patricia Potter has directed \$978,000 to the Ishpeming Schools for the creation of the Pat Potter Fund for scholarships for Ishpeming High School seniors. The first senior recipients were from the Class of 2008.

Patricia Potter was a 1946 graduate of the Ishpeming High School. In 1950, Pat Potter graduated from the Milwaukee Downer College and in 1951 she received her certification as an occupational therapist and pursued this career for 37 years. After graduation, she worked briefly in

Galveston, Texas and Miami, Florida. She then moved to Baltimore, Maryland where she was a Department Head at the Cerebral Palsy Institute and at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Her specialty was adaptation of equipment such as custom fitting wheelchairs. Pat Potter's personal interests included camping and canoeing, cats, and crafts.

Through her extraordinary generosity and her pride in being a Hematite, the Pat Potter Fund has been established as a permanent scholarship for Ishpeming High School students. In keeping with Pat Potter's life long commitment, preference is given to students entering a medical field such as nursing, pharmacy, medi-

cine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, radiology, and medical technology.

Ishpeming High School seniors from the Class of 2008 were the initial recipients of the Pat Potter Fund scholarships. The students receiving the Pat Potter Fund scholarships in the amount of \$1,750 are Nicole Kulju, Erica Merrill, Dana Perry, Mary Piereson, Rachel Piereson, and Maigen Pruett.

The funds from the Patricia Potter estate bring the value of Board of Education scholarship reserves dedicated to Ishpeming High School seniors to \$2,510,000.

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 Rldge	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 Rldge	11:30 a.m.	Al Chapman at (906) 486-9241
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Rldge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1956	Third Monday of each month	Country Kitchen	Noon	Pat (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380
1957	Second Wednesday of each month	Trinity Lutheran Church	11:30 a.m.	Spouses are welcome. Clara (Valente) Kutchie (906) 486-8246
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Rldge	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 Rldge Brewery	6:30 p.m.	

Auditorium

Do You Remember the George Quaal Presentations in the Ishpeming High School Auditorium? Well if you do, consider yourself privileged. As a young child I remember my mother taking me to a few concerts, and sitting upstairs in the front row of the balcony, I thought I was the luckiest person in the world. At that time the W.C. Peterson Auditorium was the most elegant auditorium in the U.P., and as far as I'm concerned, it still is. I think it is just wonderful that we the people of Ishpeming, the alumni, the staff, and all others that contribute to supporting the auditorium should be proud and congratulated.

Did you know that in 1939 and 1941 we were honored to have two Navy Band concerts given in the W.C. Peterson Auditorium? Mr. George Pixley, a former IHS instrumental teacher and director of the Ishpeming Industrial Association Band, was responsible for urging Mr. Quaal to book the Don Cossacks Chorus and Dancers presentation in 1942. This performance apparently, proved the "clincher" to Mr. Quaal's growing dream that the concerts could be a reality. Beginning in 1943, George Quaal's presentations, or Ishpeming Concert Series, to use as an alternate title, began.

Since January 12, 1943 when Quaal featured Stephen Hero, violinist, a steady parade of today's finest musical talent has moved across the high school auditorium stage, bringing to Ishpeming the same art-

ists who appeared in Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, and other temples of culture. The George Quaal Presentations started in 1942 and ended in 1966.

Did you know we had an American Piano Duo, The Russian Trio, St. Olaf Lutheran Choir, the Vienna Boys Choir, the Vienna String Orchestre, The Little Singers of Paris, The Singing Boys of Norway, The Festival Company of Norway and the National Ballet Theatre of Finland all perform in the W.C. Peterson Auditorium?

Do you remember our local talents that performed on the stage of the IHS auditorium, such as Dr. J.P. Bertucci's Ishpeming Choral Club, Jack and Jan Boase's Choraleers and Allegro, the Negaunee Male Chorus, the Miss Ishpeming pageants, the programs that Nick Joseph, Bob Marietti and Ed Wales were responsible for introducing to the people of Ishpeming and the surrounding area?

Yes, we have a lot to be grateful for. When I think back on all the wonderful talent that graced our stage, all I can say is thank you to all who were interested and responsible. Sometimes I wish I could go back in time to see, hear and appreciate the talent that was performed on the stage of the W.C. Peterson Auditorium.

- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57

"The Bus Kids"

Back before schools had cafeterias, back before the citizens of the (then) rural townships west of Ishpeming had their own high school (they weren't NICE then), back when it was highly unusual for high school students to drive cars to school, in other words, back in ancient times shortly after the extinction of the dinosaurs, students of high school age from those precincts attended Ishpeming High School.

I was from North Lake. Our bus left from the corner of Main Street and the Boulevard in front of the old clubhouse at the same time every morning, driven by Mr. Juntii, who owned the new gas station and auto repair shop on Highway 41 in Ishpeming Township. The itinerary took us down the Old North Lake Road to West Ishpeming, where we picked up another group of students and drove to the school. We were dropped off on Pearl Street by the Central School to go into the entrance to the High School by the side of the auditorium. In the winter, we were always greeted at the door by a custodian who made sure that we stomped and brushed all the snow off our boots before entering the building.

On our way to the main hallway of the High School from the Pearl Street entrance, we passed by the door to the room that was reserved as a lunchroom for the male commuters from the Townships. It was actually the door to the Band Room. It was in

the basement of the building, somewhere underneath the auditorium. From the door in the hallway, you descended a long cement staircase to a cloakroom for band members.

Directly in front of the staircase, about fifty feet ahead, was the door to the band rehearsal room itself. We were warned at our orientation by the principal, Mr. Peterson himself, that we were never, EVER, to go into that room. Instead, we turned left at the door to the band room, walked about thirty feet and turned right into a long hall that was bordered by a concrete block wall on the right and a wire fence on the left, behind which were custodians' supplies, etc. The hall was very long and very dark. At the end of this hall, on the right, was our lunchroom. It was kind of an alcove with a couple of rows of tables and chairs and a large trash bin. The whole area was painted an institutional yellow. Having gone to all the Saturday matinees at the Ishpeming Theater for the past six or seven years, the place suggested to me that we could expect visits from Boris Karloff or Bela Lugosi (especially Bela Lugosi). However, no one ever visited us there except for those rare occasions when Mr. Peterson had to come down to remind us that, perhaps we had not been living up to his expectations of us, usually in some minor way.

It is amazing to me now that we had been so trusted to behave correctly, which for the most part we did, and that for

the entire hour provided for lunch, we were left entirely on our own with that expectation. When we finished lunch we could stay in the lunchroom until the end of the lunch period or leave the building. Only those who were actually looking forward to a visit from Boris or Bela stayed. The rest of us would get our coats and go downtown.

Our female counterparts were allowed to remain in an area of the building where they could actually see sunshine and outdoors. I believe they ate in the Home Ec. room. The rest of the building was empty. Everyone else went home to lunch--town students, teachers, administrators, secretaries and, I believe, even custodians. For that one hour a day, we, the kids from the Townships, were the sole occupants of the building. Is there a high school in the modern United States today where they do this?

-Paul Kirschner '53



Driving Miss Sarah

On July 4, 2008, I had the pleasure of driving the car in which Miss Sarah Bottrell was my passenger. The occasion was the Ishpeming Fourth of July parade. Miss Bottrell was born in Ishpeming on October 22, 1904. She graduated from Ishpeming High School in 1922. Following graduation, she earned a teaching degree at “The Normal” (NMU). She taught school in Newberry and then in Marquette. After retirement, Sarah currently lives in her own home in Marquette.

After getting settled in the back seat, I found out that Sarah was well equipped for the ride. Donned in red, white, and blue, she had a parasol in case of rain, an afghan in case of cold, and her purse contained a bottle of water in case of thirst. She was ready!

As we traveled down Third Street, many people called out to Sarah and applauded. She recognized some people as friends from Marquette. Others were

just reacting with cheers to the sign on the car, which included her year of graduation, and her age.

Sarah commented many times



Sarah Bottrell ('22) riding through the Ishpeming Fourth of July parade.

about the size of the crowd as we turned onto Cleveland Avenue. As we passed the Gossard building, she told me that her mother had attended the opening of that three-story building which in-

cluded an elevator. She even owned a commemorative plate from Braastad's store.

As we turned onto Main, Sarah was again impressed with the many people lining the streets. As we proceeded down Division, Sarah pointed out the former site of the Methodist church. She recalled that the large house on the opposite corner was the church parsonage.

When we reached the end of the parade, Sarah was met by Dick and Ruth Hendra. She has been part of their “family” since her life-long friendship with Dr. Hendra's mother. As Sarah settled on a lawn chair to watch the final parade entries go by, I was close enough to hear a Marquette friend ask if she was also going to be in Marquette's parade. “Why, no. After all, I graduated from Ishpeming High School!”

-Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67



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
(tax deductible) Please make contribution payable to the I.H.S. Alumni Association _____

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

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

How to Write Gooder...Better

The *Beacon Light* staff found some writing tips (from shanemcdonald.com) that they thought readers might enjoy and find useful.

1. Always use a spell checker.
2. Avoid long complex sentences which go on and on without using any punctuation to break up the long sentences as this can lead to confusion as people read your text.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat. You mark my words.)
4. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
5. One should never generalize.
6. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
7. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary (and unwanted.)
8. Be more or less specific.
9. Contractions aren't necessary.
10. Avoid alliteration. Always
11. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
12. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Aldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
13. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.



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.

BEACON LIGHT STAFF

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- Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier '53
- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
- Jason Kutchie '96
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- Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67
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