

BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME TWENTY • NUMBER ONE

Spring 2008

Ishpeming High School: Home Sweet Home

Well here I am: finally only two short months away from graduating high school. Looking back on the past four years that I spent at Ishpeming High School, I can recall so many amazing memories and events that will forever be etched in my mind. I think about the simple things I took for granted—the century old halls, the trophy cases lined with awards from years past, the air of tradition and pride. I will especially remember the numerous flights of stairs that were the source of my exhaustion each and every day as I hiked my way to seventh hour AP English class. These are all parts of the high school that for the past four years, I've called my home.

My time at Ishpeming High School was about more than just an education. It was about the experience. It was about the feeling I got when the bell rang at 3:02 on a Friday, finally releasing me from a week of hard work; about cheering with the crowd in classic blue and white colors at the big game against Westwood. It was about the friendly “hello” I was sure to receive from a fellow classmate or teacher in the hallway. It was about love found and love lost—lifelong friendships made. Above all, high school for me was about growing up.

I have learned so many things in the classrooms of IHS, not only from the teachers who strived to prepare me for college, but from the experience of it overall. I have learned about myself and life. I truly *did*

grow up here. The halls were my second home, the teachers my mentors, the students my family.

The truth of it is I could have gotten an education anywhere. Instead of a Hematite I could have been a Patriot or a Miner. But I wouldn't be the same person if my colors have been anything but blue and white. There are few schools that can provide the kind of personal and memorable high school experience that I had right here at Ishpeming High School. The combination of kindness, spirit, and consistency here is like no other. I can't think of another place in the world I

would have rather spent these amazing four years.

My mother always told me high school would go by fast. “Take advantage of it while you can,” she would say. Of course, in classical fourteen-year-old fashion, I didn't believe her. When I was a freshman I viewed my journey to graduation as what would be the longest, most terrible years of my life.

I was so wrong.

I recall saying numerous times how I couldn't wait to graduate. I thought that leaving high school would be the best day of my life.

As a senior I now realize that my mother was right—high school went by fast. Perhaps it even went by too fast. The graduation day I've dreamed about for so long will become a reality in only two short months.



Jan Levi, I.H.S.A.A. Treasurer, (right) with this year's *Beacon Light* Essay Award winner, Victoria Nault.

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Good News—Association Becomes Tax Deductible Charity

In order to continue to advance our mission, the Association applied for, and received, 501(c)(3) tax status from the Internal Revenue Service on October 19, 2007. This status allows the Association to be treated as a public charity and contributions to the Association are now tax deductible under section 170 of the Code. The Association is also “qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.” It does not matter if you designate your gift for scholarship or operating funds – **any** gift to the Association is now tax deductible!

We ask that you please consider financially supporting your Alumni Association. Your gift not only helps the Association carry out its mission, but your generosity can also earn you a valuable tax deduction!

Please note that the Association's effective date of exemption is November 11, 2006. If you made a gift to the Association any time after this date, your gift is considered tax deductible.

Ishpeming High School: Home Sweet Home (cont.)

I will then be cast out into the “real world” and the canvas that has been constructed for me in high school will be one that only I can paint my future on. I will go to college in the fall and someday start my career and maybe even a family.

In two months there will be no more homecomings, no more winter carnivals, and no more consistency. The faces I grew up with will become a rarer sight. The halls I grew up in will no longer be what I see day after day. But no matter what the future brings, I will always be a Hematite, my colors blue and white. Part of me will always love the antique halls I called my

home. And there will always and forever be “no place like home.”

-Victoria Nault '08

Victoria is the 2008 recipient of the IHS Alumni Association *Beacon Light* Essay Award. The award is given annually to a graduating senior who writes an essay about their experience at Ishpeming High School and is selected by the Association's Board of Trustees. In addition to having their essay published in the *Beacon Light*, the student will also receive a \$100 scholarship. Congratulations Victoria!

A Bass on Which To Build

The Ishpeming High School Band has received an offer to match financial contributions toward the purchase of a new concert bass tuba for the band. If half the cost of the tuba can be realized by voluntary donations, the remaining half will be matched by the donor.

Hematite Connection

When the class of 63 celebrates its 45th reunion in July, Gary Anderson will be among the classmates. He says, “I personally believe I would never have achieved what I have without the great education and opportunity for other extra curricular activities I enjoyed in Ishpeming.” The strength of the math and science classes gave him an edge when he started at Michigan Tech. After graduation from Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree, Gary joined Dow Corning in 1967.

His early years with the company were spent in different assignments in product development and Resins and Chemicals manufacturing. Within 13 years of having a variety of positions, he became vice president for Dow Corning Europe. From 1983 to 1984, he took a leave of absence to serve as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Basic Industries for the United States Department of Commerce under Ronald Reagan.

When Anderson returned to Dow Corning in 1985, he advanced from general manager to corporate vice president to Group Vice President to a Dow Corning Director in 1992. From 1993, he advanced from Vice President to President to CEO to Chairman in March 2001. During his last decade he led the company thru the breast implant controversy, Chapter 11, several economic downturns and restructuring of the corporation, and a revised corporate strategy with a strong emphasis on long-

term customer relationships, and several new technology and geographic thrusts.

Certainly, Gary's life was not all work. He married his high school sweetheart, Judy Langlois (IHS Class of '62) and had two children, a boy and a girl. Their daughter is a genetics scientist who is a consulting software project manager, and their son is an architect and international marketing manager for premium forest products. Presently, the Andersons have three grandchildren who are their “pride and joy.”

Now enjoying retirement, Gary left Dow Corning with the recognition by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 corporations to work for. The company has a similar recognition from Working Woman magazine.

Tracy Skauge (Class of 2000) would agree with Fortune magazine's assessment since she has worked at Dow Corning since May 2003. Her career began in the Human Resource Service Center department, working part-time as a co-op while attending Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in Human Resource Management. It was during her time as a co-op that she first met Gary Anderson. It was not uncommon to see Gary, the CEO of Dow Corning, walking around to talk to fellow employees. To Tracy, this was surprising, “It is not everyday that you find yourself face to face with the CEO of a large corporation, yet this was the culture of Dow Corning. After only

two weeks I had the chance to meet Gary and to find out that he shared the same alma mater!”

After their initial meeting, they had another opportunity to talk during a flight to a Dow Corning event in Florida. Tracy states, “Being a student, I wanted to take full advantage of this chance to speak with Gary about his career at Dow Corning and the life of a CEO. Gary, of course, was polite and answered all of my questions. He even reminisced with me about Congress Pizza and cudighis, and Ishpeming High School.”

“I couldn't agree more that my education and opportunities through Ishpeming High School helped me to become confident in my abilities, and to attend a university away from home to pursue my career goals. It was Gary, however, that inspired me to pursue a career at Dow Corning.”

In May of 2005, Tracy graduated with a BS in Business Administration from Central Michigan University. She secured a full-time position with Dow Corning as a Retirement Specialist. Since 2007, Tracy has been working in the Staffing team, with a focus on College Recruitment and the Professional Intern Program. “I want to take my passion for Dow Corning and be able to inspire other students the way that Gary Anderson did for my career.”

-Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67
-Tracy Skauge '00

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
1943	Thursday, July 3, 2008	Mama Mia's		Nellie (Beauchamp) Maddock (906) 486-9502
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 Ridge	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 Ridge	11:30 a.m.	Al Chapman at (906) 486-9241
1954	Thursday, July 3, 2008	Al Quaal	5:00 p.m.	Class picnic. Al Goodney (906) 485-1009
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1956	Thursday, July 3, 2008	Country Kitchen	12:30 p.m.	Pat (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380
1956	Wednesday, September 10, 2008	Al Quaal Lodge	4:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m.	Celebrating 70th birthdays. Pat (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380
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 (Valenti) Kutchie (906) 486-8246
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	12:30 p.m.	Lynn Ketchem at (906) 486-6107
1958	Saturday, July 5, 2008	Wawonowin Country Club	6:00 p.m.	50th class reunion. Glenn Garrett (906) 486-8380
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 Ridge Brewery	6:30 p.m.	
1968	Thursday, July 3, 2008	Venice Supper Club	7:00 p.m.	Cost is \$5 per person. Mary Jo (Nault) Mikkola (906) 475-7362
1973	Saturday, July 5, 2008	Chapper's Pub (Negaunee)	6:00 p.m.	Teri (Thompson) Arseneau (906) 485-1146 or tarseneau@chartermi.net
1988	Saturday, July 5, 2008	Ishpeming VFW	6:00 p.m.	Cost is \$15 per person. Tricia (Bogetto) Schlicht (989) 305-0330 or taschlicht@hotmail.com

Thank You Day at the Museum

The Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum, which is in its 6th year, is offering a 50% discount on all admissions July 5th. It is the museum's way to say thank you for your support these past 6 years in the ongoing development of the museum.

The museum would like to take this opportunity to invite you, your family, relatives and whomever may be visiting you over the July 4th weekend to join us in celebrating our 6 years of providing the history of mining on the Marquette Iron Range.

For more information about Cliff Shaft Mine Museum, call (906)485-1882. The museum is located at 501 W Euclid Street, Ishpeming, open 10 am - 4 pm.



Fourth of July

I grew up in Cliff's 8th Addition, and I remember heading down to Al Quaal on July 3rd every year, chalk in hand, to color "Happy Fourth of July" messages on the streets winding through the park. The anticipation was almost too much to bear - what games would they have this year at the picnic? How much candy would I collect at the parade? I couldn't wait to watch my parents march with the Blue Notes, and oh those fireworks - would we get a good spot to watch? The anticipation is still a little too much to bear, although now I wonder instead if the parade is going to start on time, if the dumpsters and garbage cans are in the right places, if there's enough toilet paper in the bathrooms, and, oh yeah - what's the weather forecast anyway? The Fourth of July in Ishpeming is a tradition like no other that I've experienced. I am so honored to serve on a committee that is responsible for carrying on this tradition; so honored to be part of a community event that brings so many people together. Each year it astounds me how, collectively, people come together and make personal donations, enabling our committee to put on a parade, picnic, and fireworks display that draws thousands!

This year's parade theme is "Give Back to your Community," and we will honor the memory of Daryl A. Champion. I had the pleasure of working with Daryl on the 4th of July Committee for 7 years. Many of you had the privilege of working with Daryl on other committees throughout the years, I am sure. If "community service" was any part of an organization's mission, then Daryl was involved. Two weeks before he passed away, he sent an email to several members of the 4th of July committee - "Keep up the good work, girls! I'll see you at the next meeting!" it said. I knew there was a good chance I would not see Daryl at the next meeting, but I was in awe of his spirit and was inspired to make his commitment to this community my own. It is still very difficult not to see

Daryl's face at our meetings, but his spirit is with us and will always be with this Ishpeming community. This year, please join us in celebrating the 4th of July in Ishpeming. Celebrate this community. Celebrate Daryl's spirit. Whether you grew up here, live here still, or long to return, this Ishpeming community and people like Daryl Champion have made us all the people we are today. Give back to your community for all that it has given you. For more information regarding Ishpeming's 4th of July Committee, please email DaYoooperYa@aol.com or call 906-486-8460.

-Anne (Vukelich) Giroux '93



Ishpeming 4th of July Committee: Clare (Warren) Champion '66, Karl Lehmann '71, Cheryl (Junak) Austin-Christian '73, David Morton '89, Sue Ann (Palomaki) Morton '93, Anne (Vukelich) Giroux '93, Heather (Wise) Swanson '93. Not pictured: Terry Roberts '70, Jeff Giroux '89, Kevin Swanson '91, Steve Tasson '91, Paul Bonetti '73.

Markku Savolainen Accepted to PHD Chemistry Program at Dartmouth

Markku Savolainen, a 1997 graduate of Ishpeming High School, has been accepted at Dartmouth College for the fall of 2008 to pursue a PhD degree in organic chemistry. Dartmouth, a member of the prestigious Ivy League, is located in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Markku graduated from Michigan Tech University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and participated in several undergrad research projects. He continued post-graduate studies at MTU and did a co-op program in synthetic chemistry for GlaxoSmithKline R&D in 2004. In 2005 he earned his master's degree in organic chemistry from MTU, serving as a teaching assistant while doing research under Dr. Bela Torok.

After leaving MTU Markku worked as a research scientist in medicinal chemistry (drug design research) at Adolor Corporation in Exton, PA, during 2005-2006. Since 2007 he has been employed as a research assistant in Central Research and Development for the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Corporation in Wilmington, Delaware, specializing in the synthesis of fluorinated hydrocarbons.

Markku has co-authored a paper along with Dr. George Olah (1994 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry) and 5 others that was published in the Journal of Fluorine Chemistry, has a patent in the works for research done at Adolor, and has made two poster presentations at American Chemical Society. His plans at Dartmouth include increasing his research and expertise in organic synthesis while obtaining his PhD degree.

Markku is single and enjoys hunting and fishing in addition to writing and performing music. He is very modest about his accomplishments and credits his success to encouragement from his parents Sam and Marilyn Savolainen of Ishpeming, the excellent education he received from the Ishpeming Public Schools, and the "SISU" he gained from our local work ethic. He said "I especially credit the teachers in the sciences for providing quality instruction in addition to enthusiasm of the fields."

He'd love to hear from folks back home (especially any students interested in a career in chemistry or other science) and can be contacted through his e-mail address: markku_a_savolainen@hotmail.com.

- Steve Nyman '67

Chasing the U.P. Winter Blahs

By the time this paper comes out, it will probably be the middle of April, and the robins will be back looking for a good location for their summer homes. But as I write this, it's the middle of winter and we have just suffered through two weeks of below zero weather. The only birds that we see now are those dim-witted crows who were too stupid to fly south for the winter, not unlike a lot of us who stay here to freeze and complain. To make matters worse, today's mail brought one of those "Wish you were here" postcards from our evil friends who are basking in the Arizona sun for three months. When I jealously complained, my husband gave me that tired old statement, "Well, at least we don't have floods or earthquakes!" This coming from someone, who since retirement, has been satisfied to pass the winter reclining in his Lazy-Boy, waiting for the golf course to open. The only thing that would get him out of that chair is if the fire truck was in our driveway!

But I had a plan to help get me through these long winter days. I joined a gym in hopes of losing some weight and getting into a size 8 by summer. Great idea? After buying the necessary outfit so that

I would not only feel good, but look good, I immediately began to go the route. The first day I spent twenty minutes on the treadmill, twenty minutes on the elliptical machine, fifteen minutes lifting weights and the last five minutes exercising my abs. What a terrific workout! I hurried home to brag about it.

The next morning I could not get out of bed. Each of my arms felt like they weighed fifty pounds, my legs felt as heavy as David Holli's logs, plus I had a severe pain in my back and a headache that would not quit. This was a very bad idea. I'll have to be happy with that size 8 being my shoe size.

After I whined and complained for a week, my mate had some suggestions for me. (however, I'm only able to mention one of them here.) He suggested that perhaps I should get a jigsaw puzzle and spend some energy on that. While I had always loved doing crosswords, I had never attempted one of those. So I immediately went out and bought a 1,000 piece puzzle and set it up on a card table. The picture on the box looked simple enough. There were twelve Indians on horseback riding across the plains. Every piece was either brown or tan. It took me two weeks to find a corner piece, and

another frustrating week to find a match for it. Yay! Only 998 pieces to go! If anyone is interested, you can find this puzzle in next summer's garage sale.

But I wasn't about to give up on my search for a winter hobby. I had another brilliant plan. I took out all of my cookbooks, and decided to bake something new every day. I made every variety of cookie, cake, and dessert that I could find. They were all quite delicious. But when our bathroom scale announced to us, "Sorry folks, I don't go any higher!" I knew it was not the answer.

I have finally come to a conclusion. When you choose to live in this frozen tundra as we have, you must expect at least four months of cold weather, snowstorms, and even some below zero temperatures. Now listen carefully...you turn up the furnace, find a good book, hop into your recliner with a hot drink, and wait for the first robin to show up.

"Mr. Lazy-Boy" had to say it one more time..."at least we don't have floods or earthquakes."

"Shut up and drink your cocoa!"

-Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50

Mark Your Calendar! The annual I.H.S. Alumni Open House will be held on Saturday, July 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to see you there!

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

Ishpeming Fourth of July 2008 Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 28

10:00 AM - *Ride for Glory*: Al Quaal (Mountain Bike Races)

Friday, July 4

10:00 a.m. - Kids' Parade, Lineup at Mather Inn

10:30 a.m. - Annual 4th of July Parade, Downtown

Noon - Community / Family Picnic, Al Quaal

Dusk - Fireworks, Al Quaal

Saturday, July 5

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Alumni Open House, IHS Gym

29th Annual Alumni Softball Tournament—July 1-4

For more information, contact Tim Hares 485-4697



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

- Natalie Bertucci '05
- Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50
- Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier '53
- Al Goodney '54
- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
- Steven Kutchie '84
- Kristen (Wirtanen) LeSage '84
- Thomas Lucas '68
- Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67
- Thomas Solka '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.

Web site: www.ishpeminghighschools.com/alumni
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