

# BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

*Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back*



VOLUME TWENTY-THREE • NUMBER ONE

SPRING 2011

## My Years at I.H.S.

High school lasts four years. When I was a freshman, it seemed as if I had all the time in the world. Now, as a senior, I know four years can pass by quickly. Needless to say, my four years at Ishpeming High School have been remarkable. I have absolutely no regrets. Throughout my high school career, I have accomplished goals, learned many life lessons, and formed friendships that I know will last even after we graduate. Graduation! It means my high school career is almost over, but I couldn't be more honored to be a graduate of Ishpeming High School.

A few years ago, I heard someone speaking about Hematite Pride and how unique Ishpeming High School is because of it. Everyone who has ever graduated from IHS knows what I'm talking about. If you've ever gone to a football game, I guarantee at least ninety percent of the fans are Ishpeming graduates. The support we get from Ishpeming alumni is incredible. Blue and white runs through each and every student who has ever walked the halls of Ishpeming High. That pride does not diminish when you graduate, either. It's always there, no matter where you go in the future. I am especially proud to be a Hematite.

I have made so many memories at Ishpeming. I don't think I'll ever forget the crazy experiments we did in Mr. Fox's Physical Science class, or Mr. Langness' method of tossing a tennis ball at you if he caught you drifting off or not paying attention. I won't forget football games with friends, staying up late studying, demanding basketball practices, or even cramming as many people as we could at our lunch table in the old gym.

Playing sports was my favorite part of high school. Participating in athletics seemed to make the school year go by faster. My class had been very fortunate when it came to sports. Our football team had a very successful

season and made it to the State Finals. Then the girl's basketball team won the districts, the first time in thirty years. Being part of a team gave me a sense of purpose. It taught me how to manage my time more efficiently. Some of my best memories have come from playing sports.

Ishpeming High School is special. Unlike big schools, we have small class sizes and everyone knows everyone. Ishpeming is a small town, so it's also a close community. Growing up with that closeness, we don't really realize how fortunate we are to have it. The familiarity is what I will miss most after I graduate. My classmates and I will all go our separate ways after high school. Sure, there'll be groups of friends who go to the same college or at least stay in touch, but it won't be the same as these last four years. It makes me sad to think that people I have been with since elementary school will no longer be my classmates. Yet, no matter how far we branch out or how much we change, every one of us will be connected. After all, we'll always have Hematite blue and white running through our veins.

Mallory Pruett '11



Portrait Gallery

Each year, the Beacon Light staff, in coordination with the Alumni Association Board of Trustees, sponsors an essay contest that is open to all graduating seniors. The students are asked to write an essay reflecting upon their time at IHS. As always, the essays we received were superb. This year's winner was Mallory Pruett.

## The Night of Music

The IHS Alumni Association held its 2nd Annual *Night of Music* fundraising event on Saturday, March 19, in the W.C. Peterson Auditorium. Hundreds of people supported our organization by attending this performance, which featured wonderfully talented area musicians who all donated their time.

A variety of groups performed, including our high school's own chorus, **Hematites in Harmony**, as well as **GLC** and **VIP**, two musical trios

from the area. Also performing was the **Wednesday Nite Music Club**, whose rendition of *Life in a Northern Town* once again thrilled the audience. Rounding out the show was the very talented **Shot Gun Kelly & State 51**, the classic rock and country group **Bordertown**, and an amazing drum demonstration by Ishpeming's International Drum Competition finalist, **Wayne Oien**. **The Blue Notes** drum line finished off the evening with their very entertaining

"glow in the dark" performance.

A 50/50 raffle was also held, which added to the profit for the night. We hope to continue with the *Night of Music* event as our only major fundraiser for the year – so watch for information next year at the same time. It's a great way to support the Association and the talented musicians of our area.

Jan (Junak) Bertucci '76

### “Sisu”

Do you think you can identify this very special “most unforgettable character”? This man could strike up a conversation with a homeless person, could repair anything, hunt geese with a mere throw of a hammer, cook breakfast like a master chef, build houses with his bare



Faculty picture of 1983

hands, and inspire a student to be a respectable, contributing adult. Here is the best hint... He called some of his “overactive kids” his “Rapahos”. Of course, it can’t be anyone but Marvin Luoma, teacher and mentor to his students at IHS for 30 years. Sadly, he passed away on July 16, 2009.

Marvin led a happy life, though he was orphaned at the early age of four. He was lovingly raised by his Finnish grandparents, aunts and uncles. Growing up, he was a proud member of the “Cleveland Gang”, a group of young boys who stayed together as fast friends throughout life. Marv served four years in the U.S. Navy on the destroyer USS Jacob Jones. Eventually, he married Joan Perry, the love of his life. His four daughters were his pride and joy, and next in line were his students, whom he referred to as “his boys”.

Marvin had a unique talent for teaching, and no one left his class without a solid background in the Industrial Arts, along with many valuable lessons in life. Attesting to this fact are the numerous letters received by his family after his passing. He left a significant impression on his stu-

dents, and perhaps this letter from one of them will sum up the feelings of his many admirers.



Marvin at deer camp in 1996

“God bless you, Marvin. You taught us the true meaning of life. You were my favorite teacher and one of my greatest memories of high school. After you left, it was never the same.”

In life there are only a handful of people who make such an impression on you. Marvin was one of those people with his great sense of humor and regard for others. If you were lucky

enough to have been his student, or his friend, you will always remember him with love. He was a very special, kind, unforgettable man. Rest in peace, Marv.

Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50

### Your Assistance is Needed!

Without your continued financial support, the future publication of this newsletter is in jeopardy. It costs nearly \$4,000 to produce a *Beacon Light*. If you are interested in making a donation towards the next publication, or if you would like to sponsor the next issue, please contact the Alumni Association office.

### Your Scholarship Money At Work

After a great deal of time, energy, and alumni support, the Alumni Association was able to create a scholarship fund in June of 2004. Beginning with the class of 2005, at least two scholarships have been awarded annually to deserving high school seniors through this fund.

Kyle Waananen and Natalie Bertucci were the first two recipients. Natalie used the scholarship money at NMU where she studied secondary education, and is now teaching in the science department at Marquette Senior High School. Kyle also attended Northern Michigan University, and has a degree in criminal justice. He was grateful the scholarship could help pay for some of the cost of his textbooks.

Dustin Doren, a 2007 recipient, has finished his sports science degree at NMU, and will be moving to Arizona in June to complete his coursework to become a physical therapist. “Learning how to manage your finances in school is huge, and to have a year to under-

stand how valuable your money is, helped me out a lot,” said Dustin in gratitude for the scholarship money.

One of the most recent recipients was Matt Levertton. The 2010 graduate is currently attending the University of Michigan, hoping to be accepted into their school of business. “The scholarship has been a great help to me with paying my tuition bills, and I appreciate it even more, because as someone who worked in the Alumni Office last year as an intern, I know how much hard work it took in order to raise that money.”

The Alumni Association knows that you have a number of choices when it comes to donating your money, and we are extremely appreciative of your generosity. Please know that your money is being used to help hard-working and grateful students like Kyle, Natalie, Dustin, and Matt.

Tricia (Jackson) Seelen '96

## 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  |
|-------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|--|
| 1940  | Second Thursday of each month  | Country Grill  | 9:00 a.m.  |  |
| 1941  | Second Tuesday of each month   | Varies         | 12:30 p.m. | Betty Bannon (906) 486-6283  |
| 1947  | First Friday of each month     | Country Grill  | 9:30 a.m.  | Barbara (Husby) Nuorala (906) 486-9283   |
| 1948  | Last Tuesday of each month     | Country Grill  | 9:00 a.m.  | Joanne (Belstrom) Gaboury (906) 485-5261   |
| 1949  | Second Wednesday of each month | Country Grill  | 9:00 a.m.  | Jean (Stone) Johns at (906) 485-4322   |
| 1950  | First Thursday of each month   | Ashton's       | 8:30 a.m.  | Jan (Lofaro) Boase (906) 486-6966  |
| 1950  | Thursday, June 30, 2011        | 41 Club        | Noon       | Jan (Lofaro) Boase (906) 486-6966  |
| 1951  | Saturday, July 2, 2011         | Country Grill  | 6:00 p.m.  | Nancy Kamppinen (906) 486-8377   |
| 1952  | Third Monday of each month     | Jasper Ridge   | Noon       | Barbara (Graham) Johnson (906) 226-0898  |
| 1953  | Second Thursday of each month  | Varies         | Noon       | Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier (906) 486-6281   |
| 1954  | Friday, July 1, 2011           | Al Quaal Lodge | 5:30 p.m.  | Joan (Tasson) Goodney (906) 485-1009   |
| 1954  | Fourth Thursday of each month  | Jasper Ridge   | 11:30 a.m. | Al Chapman (906) 486-9241  |
| 1955  | First Thursday of each month   | Jasper Ridge   | 11:30 a.m. | John Ruusi (906) 339-2315  |
| 1956  | Saturday, July 2, 2011         | Jasper Ridge   | Noon       | Pat (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380  |
| 1956  | Third Monday of each month     | Jasper Ridge   | Noon       | Pat (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380  |
| 1957  | Second Wednesday of each month | Jasper Ridge   | 11:30 a.m. | Spouses are welcome. Clara (Valente) Kutchie (906) 486-8246  |
| 1958  | Third Thursday of each month   | Jasper Ridge   | 12:30 p.m. | Lynn Ketchem (906) 486-6107  |
| 1958  | Thursday, July 7, 2011         | Jasper Ridge   | 12:30 p.m. | Glenn Garrett (906) 486-8380   |
| 1959  | Third Wednesday of each month  | Jasper Ridge   | 1:00 p.m.  | Sheila (Anderson) Thornton (906) 485-4470  |
| 1959  | Saturday, June 25, 2011        | Al Quaal       | 4:00 p.m.  | Sheila (Anderson) Thornton (906) 485-4470  |
| 1961  | First Wednesday of each month  | Jasper Ridge   | Noon       | Rita (Lafreniere) Palomaki (906) 486-4569  |
| 1961  | Saturday, July 2, 2011         | Wawonowin C.C. | 5:00 p.m.  | Rita (Lafreniere) Palomaki (906) 486-4569<br>Judy (Walin) Conrad (906) 486-9302<br>Joan (Holmgren) Nelson (906) 475-9620 |
| 1962  | Last Friday of each month      | Country Grill  | 9:30 a.m.  | Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845  |
| 1964  | Fourth Wednesday of each month | Jasper Ridge   | 11:30 a.m. | Marie (Suardini) Violetta (906) 475-4482   |

Continued on next page...

|      |                        |                                   |             |  |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1966 | Sunday, July 3, 2011   | Country Grill                     | 7:30 p.m.   | Mary Jo Bussone (906) 486-9887           |
| 1971 | Saturday July 2, 2011  | Elks Club                         | 7:00 p.m.   | Debbie (Anderson) Bussone (906) 485-5901 |
| 1976 | Saturday, July 2, 2011 | Country Village Conference Center | 7:00 p.m.   | Roseanne Turino (906) 485-6440           |
| 1981 | Saturday, July 2, 2011 | Scott Cevigney's Camp             | Noon        | Stephen Pohlman (906) 485-1493           |
| 1981 | Friday, July 1, 2011   | Country Grill                     | 7:00 p.m.   | Stephen Pohlman (906) 485-1493           |
| 1986 | Saturday, July 2, 2011 | The Venice                        | No time yet | Julie Solka (906) 485-4325               |
| 1996 | Saturday, July 2, 2011 | The Venice                        | 7:00 p.m.   | Tricia (Jackson) Seelen (906) 486-6773   |
| 1991 | Saturday, July 2, 2011 | Al Quaal Lodge                    | No time yet | Amy Mallett                              |
| 2001 | Saturday, July 2, 2011 | The Venice                        | 4:00 p.m.   | Andy Wallner (906) 360-2142              |

### Why Some Men Have Dogs and Not Wives

1. The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.
2. Dogs don't notice if you call them by another name.
3. A dog's parents never visit.
4. Dogs agree that you need to raise your voice to get your point across.
5. You never have to wait for a dog... They are ready to go 24 hours a day.
6. Dogs, unlike wives, find you amusing when you've over-imbibed.
7. A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, "If I died, would you get another dog?"
8. If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper, and give them away.
9. Dogs like to ride in the back of a pick-up truck, and never criticize your driving.
10. If a dog leaves, it won't take half of your stuff.
11. If a dog smells another dog on you they don't get mad. They just think it's interesting.
12. Dogs don't complain if you forget Valentine's Day... They just expect Alpo, water, and an old sock to chew on.



To test this theory:  
 Lock your wife and your dog in the garage for an hour.  
 Then open it and see who is happy to see you.

Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50

### A Trip Down Memory Lane (Part II)

Seigel's Junkyard · Lofberg's clothing store, Division and First · Ishpeming Speedway, near Clay's 41 Club · Old M-35 to Palmer · Gurchinoff's Restaurant · Senate Café · Bergeron Beer distributors , Ridge Street · Kielinen Contractor, Pearl Street · Blacksmith shop with whistle, at Brownstone · Rosberg's Store, Cleveland Avenue · Louie Pinard's station · Billings Bus—later Northland Lines · Corneliuson's Bakery · Superior Shoe Shop (Dom Tasson) · Buying day old bread at National store (brand name NatCo) · Preparing the censer at St. John's for funeral masses · Burger and fries at the Hill-billy · Bum's Hotel & Red River Valley, Indian Trail in "the pits." · RR overpass where Snyder's is now · Stereoscopic viewers at the library · Talent shows at the Ishpeming Theater · Kemp's Furniture · Willey's Tire Shop, Division Street · The trail from Big Plains to Tangletown · Tossing and piling wood in the basement · Liberatae's Maytag store and Louie singing tenor at High Mass · Bjork and Zhulkie Funeral Home, corner First and Pearl (before the fire) · Buying stamps for war bonds at the Cleveland School

Tom Sharland

### A Note of Gratitude

We'd like to put in a word of thanks and appreciation for the guidance and leadership of Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67, who joined the *Beacon Light* staff in 2006, and assumed responsibilities of heading up the production of our alumni newsletter until the fall of 2010.

It's not an easy job. One has to coordinate the meetings, contact the staff by e-mail and phone, while always trying to recruit new people interested in contributing to the *Beacon Light*. There is much editing to be done, and one must be able to visualize the final copy, and have a

knowledge of the scope of the printing process that goes into sending out over 7,000 copies to IHS alumni.

Sheryl seemed to know everyone in town, and was good at contacting people for future material for the newsletter. Her enthusiasm was a motivating factor to all the staff to produce a quality alumni bulletin.

We're grateful for the people who step forward to take on this task.

Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56

## Hematite Highlights

Once again, we as IHS Alumni, have every reason to be proud of our school and especially this year’s students. Here are some of their accomplishments:

### Sports:

- ◆ Basketball – The girls were District champions for the first time in 30 years. They were led by Mallory Pruett who became the all-time leading career scorer in IHS history (boys and girls). She was also all UP (1<sup>st</sup> team), as well as all conference. Gabe Eppert made the All-State Class-C team. He also made All-Conference and was UP Player of the Year for Class A,B,C.
- ◆ Cross Country – Kenny Peterson was number four academic All-State, as well as All-UP and All-State in Division II. His teammate, Bjørn Gunderson, made All-UP in Division II.
- ◆ Football – Our Hematites were MPC champions (two years in a row), district and regional champions, as well as runners-up in the state championship. Daniel Olson and Wyatt Jurasin received All-State honors.
- ◆ Swimming – Austin Peterson, Kenny Peterson, Ryan Leonard, and Zach Solka broke the 200 freestyle record for the boy’s team, an outstanding record for 12 years. Bjørn Gunderson broke the diving record (a 35 year old record!) and was 2nd in the UP.
- ◆ Tennis – Mallory Pruett and Katie Johns were honorable mention selections in Division II.

- ◆ Wrestling – Derek Willey was the MPC champion, UP champion, and state-finalist while recording the most wins in IHS history.

### Bits and Pieces:

- ◆ Academics – This year’s Valedictorians are Sarah Leppanen, Mallory Pruett, and Jennel Giraud. Salutatorian honors went to Brandon Kainulainen.
- ◆ Band – MSBOA Competition: A rating of “superior performance” was achieved by Jonathan Korpi, Cora Bleu, Tyler Beun, Noah Stetson, William Billing, and Mike Nelson.
- ◆ Excellence in Education – Senior students Jennel Giraud, Brandon Kainulainen, Sarah Leppanen, Kenneth Peterson and Mallory Pruett received Excellence in Education scholarships at a county-wide program held at Northern Michigan University on May 2, 2011. Anthony Bertucci ’01, a scholarship recipient as an I.H.S. senior, was the program’s keynote speaker.
- ◆ HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Competition – Ashlee Thornton was a silver medalist, while Mike Perrault earned a bronze medal.



## Remember Readers...

**We need your help to ensure we have correct addresses on file. Please let us know of any address changes in your class. We appreciate your help in keeping our records up-to-date!**

### IHS Alumni Association Donation/Change of Address 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* \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Ishpeming Fourth of July 2011

The IHS Alumni Association will hold its annual Open House in the “Old Gym” of the high school on Saturday, July 2, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. There will be a Palms Book location reunion held at 10:00 a.m. during the Open House.

The Firecracker 5k run and 1 mile walk will be held on Saturday, July 2nd at the Al Quaal ski trails. Entry forms are available and there will be a discount for early registration. There will also be registration on the day of the race from 7:00 am to 8:45 am. The race will begin at 9:00 am.

The late Bill “Wylie” Kamppinen ‘76, who was a member of the 1975 state championship football team, will be honored during the 32nd Annual Ishpeming High School Alumni Softball Tournament on July 1st through the 4th at the Ishpeming Playgrounds, Al Quaal Field, and Mather Fields. Contact Tim Hares at (906) 485-4697 for more information.

Sunday, July 3rd at 7:30 pm, **The Blue Notes** will perform in downtown Ishpeming.

Monday, July 4th at 9:30 am, the children's parade will take place.

Monday, July 4th at 10:30 am, the 32nd annual parade will take place following the same route as last year. This year's theme will be honoring World War II Veterans.

### BEACON LIGHT STAFF

Al Goodney '54  
Anthony Bertucci '01  
Austin Peterson '11  
Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57  
Jan (Junak) Bertucci '76  
Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50  
Jason Kutchie '96  
Robin Gronvall '96  
Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56  
Sue (Perry) Heilala '78  
Terry Thompson '52  
Tricia (Jackson) Seelen '96

### Contact Your Alumni Association:

Phone: (906) 485-1381 • Fax: (906) 485-1422 • E-mail: [alumni@ishpemingschools.com](mailto:alumni@ishpemingschools.com) • Web site: [www.ishpemingschools.org](http://www.ishpemingschools.org)

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