



Kewanee Schools Foundation

ALUMNI UPDATE

Volume #25 Number 1

Summer 2020

KSF ESTABLISHES NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships were established through the Kewanee Schools Foundation to benefit KHS students. If you have any interest in adding to these scholarships, please contact the Foundation office.



Norma Barto

The Norma Barto Memorial Scholarship was established in 2020 in memory of Norma Barto, the director of the Kewanee High School junior and senior class plays from 1972-1987. She will always be remembered for her open-hearted kindness, her fearless curiosity, her ability to encourage students to believe in themselves, and her belief that you never settle for “good enough”.

Norma graduated from Princeton High School and Illinois

State University where she also received her Master’s Degree in teaching. She then taught Special Education in the Kewanee School District from 1968-1993. She became actively involved in theatre to coach and encourage her students to become more of themselves than they ever dreamed possible.



Henry Hill

The Henry Hill Memorial Award was established in 2020 and awarded to a graduate of Kewanee High School who intends to pursue a career in music education. The award is established in memory of Henry Hill and is made possible through memorials provided by family and friends.



John Heartt

The family of John Heartt established the John B. Heartt Memorial BHE Mechanics Scholarship as an annual scholarship award in memory of John. John graduated from Kewanee High School in 1967 and attended Black Hawk College East Campus for two years. He started his career at Hyster Corporation and soon moved to John Deere Harvester Works as a welder. He retired from John Deere in 2009 as a Supervisor and eventually enrolled in the Auto Mechanics program at Black Hawk East to pursue his passion of cars. He worked for several semesters as an instructor on campus for both the Automotive program and the Welding program. The entire Heartt family has graduated from Black Hawk College East Campus and holds their educational values near and dear.

The Gold Star FS Scholarship was established in 2020. Gold Star, FS, Inc. is a leading provider of farm products and services in Northwest Illinois, serving four counties. Since 1929, Gold Star FS has been a full service agricultural company with “cash and carry” sales and/or “custom delivery and application” directly on the farm by trained operators. Gold Star’s mission is to provide profitable solutions through trusted partnerships with its members. Gold Star FS strongly supports future farmers and is happy to provide a small financial gift to the most qualified students.

KHS NAMES TOP 2020 STUDENTS



Samuel Burkhart

Valedictorian - Samuel Burkhart, the son of Suzanne Burkhart and the late James Burkhart, plans to major in engineering at the University of Iowa. His academic achievements include four years on the High Honor Roll and in 2020 was named an Illinois State Scholar. He is a two-year member of the KHS National Honor Society and was treasurer this year. He earned All-Academic conference honors in soccer and baseball. He also competed in basketball and golf.



Haley Heeren

Valedictorian - Haley Heeren, the daughter of Andy and Cathy Heeren, will attend Millikin University to major in pre-occupational therapy and minor in Spanish. The four-year Key Club member was in the National Honor Society for two years, serving as vice president her senior year. She has achieved High Honor Roll for four years and in 2020 was named an Illinois State Scholar. She also earned All-Academic conference honors in cross country and girl’s basketball. She also is a recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award and was named Elks Student of the Month. Extracurricular activities include serving as an aide to the Life Skills program gym class. She was selected All-Conference Cross Country her senior year and second-team All-Conference in girl’s basketball.



Harrison Smith

Valedictorian - Harrison Smith, son of Marty and Jen Smith, plans to attend Iowa State University, where he has

been accepted into the Honors Program for an architecture major. He was selected as a member of the National Honor Society junior and senior years and was a member of the National Art Honors Society for three years. He was an All-State cast selection in Group Interpretation, was on the Highest Honors list all four years of high school and was named a 2020 Illinois State Scholar. Extracurricular activities include four years in the fall play, school musical and Group Interpretation.



Trenton Terry

Valedictorian - Trenton Terry, the son of Sheri Terry and the late Willie Terry II, plans to attend Illinois College in Jacksonville to major in secondary education and biology. Terry is a 2020 Illinois State Scholar and was National Honor Society president his junior and senior years. He received Highest Honors all four years of high school. Extracurricular activities included four years in basketball and baseball, serving as captain his senior year. In sports he earned All Academic Conference honors for his junior and senior years. He was also a Key Club member.





Logan Zarvell

Valedictorian - Logan Zarvell, son of Angie Zarvell and Paul Matuszyk, plans to attend St. Ambrose University to major in physical therapy. He was National Honor Society secretary his senior year and he also was selected an Illinois State Scholar. In addition to being named to the All-Academic Conference teams in baseball and basketball his junior and senior years (where he was captain), Zarvell was a Key Club board member as a sophomore and junior and an Elks Student of the Month nominee. He also played basketball all four years and was a member of the Student Council.



Riley Hansen

Salutatorian - Riley Hansen, daughter of Scott and Kandy Hansen, plans to attend Western Illinois University, where she will major in speech pathology and audiology, and play on the women's golf team. Hansen competed at the state level in golf all four years of high school, earning 2nd place as a

sophomore and 8th as a senior. Her academic achievements include High Honors freshman and sophomore years; Highest Honors junior and senior years; and National Honor Society junior and senior years. She also was named to the Three Rivers Conference All Academic golf team her junior and senior years and was nominated for Elks Student of the Month.

CHRISTIANSEN FAMILY RECOGNIZES CLASS OF 2020

Bill and Lori (Madsen KHS '74) Christiansen established the Christiansen Family Scholarships in recognition and support of the KHS Class of 2020, whose members have shown great innovation and resilience during the challenging final months of their senior year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also wanted to express their gratitude for the exceptional, well-rounded education received by their two daughters Brooke (KHS '01) and Breanne (KHS '07).

These scholarships provided financial assistance to students who have excelled in areas that have played an important role in the lives of the Christiansen family. With two healthcare workers among their immediate family, they recognize the tremendous value of healthcare careers, particularly during these unprecedented times. Bill and Lori have both served on the KCUSD #229 Board of Education and are passionate about the quality of education that our District provides for our students. In addition, extracurricular activities have been a source of

tremendous joy, motivation, and friendship as family members participated in KHS volleyball, basketball, track and field, Poms, band, art, speech, theater, and student government, and then after high school graduation, found themselves well prepared to pursue many of these same activities in college and beyond.

It is the hope of the Christiansen Family that these awards will assist deserving students in pursuing their academic dreams and although not a requirement, will encourage them to consider returning to their hometown after graduation, sharing their experiences, talents, skills, and resilience with our community and our future students.

KHS STUDENTS EARN YEAR-END AWARDS

*Reprinted from The Star Courier
By Mike Helenthal*

Kewanee High School seniors have already walked the stage (each one by themselves and at a pre-scheduled time), but their achievements are still echoing the halls.

The Star Courier traditionally has run award winners along with photos of large groups of smiling faces – but thanks to COVID-19, that wasn't possible this year.

"Usually we would have a couple of pictures," said Mary Simaytis, the school's registrar and athletic director secretary. "But this year we did individual graduations so we did not have any group photos of the winners."

The Kewanee Schools Foundation and the Kewanee School District awarded \$100,700 to the Class of 2020 this year.

Award winners include:
Amanda Aldred: Christiansen Family Band Scholarship; The Henry Hill Memorial Award; John Philip Sousa Band Award; Kewanee Music Boosters Scholarship; Yesenia Almanza: Rodney Rogers Memorial Medical Arts Award; Carter Bates: Dean L. Bates Scholarship; George Cernovich Auto Service Scholarship; John B. Heartt Memorial BHE Mechanics Scholarship; Gage Behnke: FFA Alumni Scholarship; Matthew Scott Memorial Award; The National Arion Foundation Award - Band; Rumbold Valley Farms Award; Anabel Bodine: American Legion Post #31 Scholarship; Kylie Brock: 3x4 Award; Savanna Bruno; Margaret Ririe Memorial Award; Patricia (Snider) Sullens Cheerleading Award; Ruth and Edmond Beauprez Memorial Scholarship; Samuel Burkhart: Dean L. Bates Scholarship; Dr. Robert Breedlove Memorial Athletics Scholarship; Harriett McCarthy Math Scholarship; Laurence Horler Scholarship (co-winner); The Lions Club Plaque; Rotary Scholar; Ruth Camacho: The Marvin Damron Memorial Scholarship; Simeon Campbell: Class of 1934 Memorial Scholarship Award; Gary L. Zarvell Memorial Scholarship; Diamond Coleman: Family & Consumer Sciences Advisory Council Award; Hilding Beck Scholarship; 3x4 Award; Payton Conner: The Agriculture Advisory Council; Bradley & Joanne Waugh Family Memorial Award; Dean L. Bates Scholarship; FFA Alumni Scholarship; Santos Contreras: Doctor Smith Loyalty Award; Hilding Beck Scholarship; Kewanee Soccer Scholarship; Xavier Crowe: Industrial Education Award and Galen and Mary Landis Plaque; Richard A. Ruzas, Jr. Memorial Track Award; 3x4 Award; Gracey Damron: Adela Wesebaum Award; Christiansen Family 4-Year/3-Sport Athletic Scholarship; Dean L. Bates Scholarship; The H.F. Brockman Memorial Athletic Award; Kathryn L. Kirley Memorial Scholarship; Ken Sullens-James Golby Scholarship;

Leo A. Saey Memorial Award; The Marvin Damron Memorial Scholarship; Tom Blake Basketball Memorial Award; 3x4 Award; Cris Fernandez Palos: Chris R. Ketrige Memorial Journalism Award; Hilding Beck Scholarship; Kewanee High School Theater Scholarship; Kewanee Park District; The Mary Lee and H.T. Mercer Fine Arts Award; Masonic Lodge #159 Scholarship Award; Gracie Fitzsimmons: Ethel C. Tillman Scholarship; Duriel Gonzalez Tirado: Geoffrey R. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship; Alysa Gorden: FFA Alumni Scholarship; Benjamin Hand: National School Choral Award; Riley Hansen: The Grace Hepner Memorial Award; Hilding Beck Scholarship; Ken Fristad Memorial Golf Scholarship; Rotary Scholar; Haley Heeren: Anna L. Sheahan Memorial Scholarship; D.A.R. Good Citizen Award; The Harriett McCarthy Math Scholarship; The Kiwanis Cup; The Lions Club Plaque; Pauline Scott Memorial Award; Reeser Family Scholarship; Rotary Scholar; Brianna Henderson: The National Arion Foundation Award - Choir; Tyler Diego Jackson: Martin Rapczak & Rodney Rogers Memorial Patriotism Award; Eleni Karamajanes: Kewanee High School Class of 1957 Scholarship; Drake Keel: Hilding Beck Scholarship; April Lambert: Dean L. Bates Scholarship; The Frank and Fannie Lay Kewanee High School Award; Heidi L. Goodbar Memorial Art Scholarship; The Mary Lee and H.T. Mercer Fine Arts Award; Star Courier Journalism Award; MacKenzie MacAdam: 3x4 Award; Lani Moreland: Rotary Outstanding Vocational Student; Lottie Moore: Richard Mautino Memorial Government Service Learning Award; Robert A. Grabbe Memorial Award; Shelbi Murphy: Chamber of Commerce Award; R. Lynn Saey Memorial Scholarship; Jacob Newman: Robert A. Grabbe Memorial Award; Blaine Pickering: Brian P. Murphy Memorial Scholarship; Robert E. Breedlove Scholarship; Kavon Russell: The David Hepner Football

Memorial Award; Jerry Nell Memorial Award; 3x4 Award; Alexandro Salazar: The Harriett McCarthy Math Scholarship; Hilding Beck Scholarship; Kewanee High School Theater Scholarship; Kewanee Rebekah Lodge #512 Scholarship; Wayne and Hazel Zang Memorial Scholarship; Carson Sauer: Dekalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award; FFA Alumni Scholarship; Trevor Simaytis: Dean L. Bates Scholarship; The Frank and Fannie Lay Kewanee High School Award; Harrison Smith: Barry Lee Ensley Memorial Award; Belle Alexander Dennis Scholarship; Christiansen Family Fine Arts Scholarship; The Harriett McCarthy Math Scholarship; The Katie Woods Creative Spirit Award; The Lions Club Plaque; Norma Barto Memorial Scholarship; Rotary Scholar; Nolan Stout: Geoffrey R. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship; Trenton Terry: American Legion Post #31 Scholarship; The Bernie Vanwassenhove-Johnson Scholarship Award; Christiansen Family Education Scholarship; Dr. Ronald Thompson Memorial Scholarship; Laurence Horler Scholarship (co-winner); The Lions Club Plaque; Mattingly Student Council Leadership Award; Rotary Scholar; Lanay Thorp: The Susan Smith Memorial Plaque; Tristan Tucker: The Bradley Wessels Memorial Award; The Joe Hill Memorial Award; Corbin Vandesampel: Christiansen Family 4-Year/3-Sport Athletic Scholarship; The Elks Trophy; Hilding Beck Scholarship; 3x4 Award; Gage Williams: Doctor Smith Loyalty Award; Logan Zarvell: Christiansen Family Healthcare Scholarship; Glidden Family Scholarship; The Lions Club Plaque; Robert L. Petersen Memorial Award; Rotary Scholar.



A Message From The Executive Director



Dear Alumni & Friends,

As the year 2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Kewanee Schools Foundation, we are reminded that educating the children of our community is at the heart of what we do. The Foundation has worked tirelessly over the past 30 years to ensure that we continue to meet our mission of strengthening the educational opportunities of students who attend the six schools that comprise Kewanee Community Unit School District #229. We could not do this without your support, as well as the patronage of so many other alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, board(s), local businesses and friends in the community.

We know the past few months have been difficult for you, our community, our nation and the World during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is times like these that make the Foundation especially grateful for your loyal support. It has afforded us the opportunity to continue to provide the resources needed to educate the children of KCUSD #229 so they will be successful in the future. *But we can't stop there. Additional funds are necessary on an annual basis to continue to meet future needs.*

When you give to the Kewanee Schools Foundation, you are strengthening and enriching learning through the development of innovative programs. Your support provides instructional supplies and equipment, as well as facility and technology improvements. You also provide additional training and resources for teachers of the Kewanee School District to deliver high quality education to prepare students for future success. You also help our graduating seniors by providing scholarships to help reduce their college costs.

Won't you consider a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to the Kewanee Schools Foundation 2020 Annual Fund Campaign? Your gift can be used to support the areas of greatest need, or you can designate your donation to another fund of your choice. *Every dollar counts, no matter how large or small!* Together, we know we can accomplish anything.

Thank you for supporting us during this critical time. We wish you and your loved ones safety, comfort, and all the best as we face the months ahead together as a community.

Stay well my friends!

Kind regards,



Elizabeth Breedlove
Executive Director

P.S. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Donations are also accepted online at www.kewaneeshoolsfoundation.org. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowable by law. Thank you for your kind and loyal support!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

EMILY (HERRIOT) DEBORD '93



The Kewanee High School Art Department has always relied on student helpers to accomplish the many artistic requests they would receive from the school and the community. The class of 1993 provided KHS a creative level of excellence that surpassed all normal expectations. Much of the credit for this reputation goes to Emily (Herriot) DeBord, Art League President that year.

“Even though Emily was involved in many other school activities, I could depend upon her whenever artistic skills were needed”, says Susan Blake, former KHS Art Instructor. “I watched her develop a sense of responsibility and an eye for detail that went far beyond that

of a typical high school student. Today, I’m very proud to see the visual proof of Emily’s exceptional talent all over our community, and to know that she is a graduate of our own Kewanee High School.”

After high school Emily attended Bradley University in Peoria where she double majored in Graphic Design and Painting and was involved in the symphonic band and pep band.

After college she married her high school sweetheart, Jon DeBord (Class of ‘92). She worked at Dynamic Graphics in Peoria, where she converted artists’ original art into digital art.

Emily has worked for B & B Printing since 1999. She has enjoyed doing the graphic art for Kewanee School District and the Kewanee Schools Foundation.

Her motto is a quote from Walt Disney.....”*First think, Second dream, Third believe, and finally, dare.*”

Emily and her husband Jon have three children and live in Kewanee.

KCUSD #229 LOSES ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES



Michael K. Kirkham, of Louisville, KY passed away on November 24, 2019. He was employed as an English teacher, Dean of Students and basketball coach taking the Kewanee Boilermaker basketball team to state during the 1985-86 season and recently inducted in the Kewanee High School Athletic Hall of Fame at the induction ceremony on October 12, 2019.

He also served as Principal and Assistant Superintendent at Kewanee High School.



William A. Taylor, of Kewanee passed away on February 4, 2020.

Bill was a successful athlete throughout high school and college as a wrestler and football player. After college, he chose a career as a high school Biology teacher, as well as a coach for the wrestling and football programs, eventually receiving the honor of induction into the Kewanee High School Athletic Hall of Fame as a Coach. He was employed by the KCUSD #229 from 1967-1978 and 1997-2008.

A memorial has been established by the family to the Kewanee Schools Foundation.

These individuals will be greatly missed.

We are proud of our alumni and would love to show you off! The Foundation plans to spotlight an alumnus/a in each issue of Alumni Update in the future. If you would like to be considered, please send us a biography of yourself, and why Kewanee Schools and/or Foundation is important to you.

Please send biography with photo to:
Mindi Goard, Foundation Assistant
Email: mgoard@ksf229.org
or mail to
Kewanee Schools Foundation
1001 N. Main Street
Kewanee, IL 61443

PASSINGS

CLASS OF '36

Katherine (Larson) Wear - 1/27/20

CLASS OF '41

Elwyn E. Karau - 12/19/19

CLASS OF '42

Marjorie L. (Millslagle) Cox - 2/28/20

James M. Ratcliffe - 6/17/20

CLASS OF '44

Shirley M. (Lee) Coven - 2/27/20

Verna (Ellenwood) Dillon - 2/25/20

Marjorie (Orr) Millman - 6/21/20

Sheila A. (Wyand) Tunncliff - 12/3/19

CLASS OF '46

Harold E. Erickson - 5/31/20

Luella M. Richter - 3/19/20

CLASS OF '47

Hazel I. (Milburn) Wonser Johnson -
3/8/20

Drucilla (Gambill) Kopp - 4/6/20

Marie "Maribeth" Mikenas - 3/8/20

CLASS OF '48

Florence (Allen) Mitchell - 5/15/20

Raymond J. VanWassenhove - 3/5/20

CLASS OF '49

Ilene Faye (Battersby) Baker -
12/31/19

Joan (Schiltz) Pont - 5/2/20

Ardeth (Lewis) Unterzuber - 12/1/19

CLASS OF '50

Marcella Jean (Stenwall) Churling -
1/2/20

Margaret (Seyller) Matuszyk -
4/26/20

CLASS OF '51

Betty (Queen) Kirkhove - 11/29/19

Carol (Anderson) Nyert - 4/27/20

CLASS OF '52

Emily Caras - 3/16/20

Dorothy (Leggins) Zetterberg -
6/25/20

CLASS OF '53

James M. Fultz - 3/7/20

CLASS OF '54

Donavon Christian - 4/29/17

David Gorey - 11/19/19

Carol (Fleming) Richards - 11/6/19

CLASS OF '55

Shirley M. (Walton) Lempke -

11/8/19

CLASS OF '57

Gene L. Brasel - 11/20/19

Jane Pirtle -

CLASS OF '59

John R. Bailleu - 1/14/20

Sharon (Addis) Bell - 12/14/19

Dr. Thomas E. Carney - 5/9/20

Christine A. (Ptashnik) Ratliff -
11/4/19

CLASS OF '60

Dolores K. (Wiley) Blake - 5/11/20

Carole (McGlenn) Milnes - 5/25/20

CLASS OF '61

Berneice K. (Van Pratt) DeMay -
12/25/19

Janet (Holmes) Morris - 12/25/15

CLASS OF '62

Terry L. DeClercq - 1/26/20

CLASS OF '63

Carole Anne (Thurwanger) Moats -
3/20/20

CLASS OF '64

Anita (Labedis) Fulton - 2/17/20

James A. Jones - 2/11/20

Judith Ann (Marks) Scranton -
7/14/20

CLASS OF '65

Ralph A. Gillespie, Jr - 2/4/20

CLASS OF '67

Mark Angelcyk - 5/22/20

Donald G. Gillespie - 3/29/20

Philip J. Niedziela - 4/9/20

Mary (Marshall) Rogers - 5/27/20

CLASS OF '68

Betsy (Landerger) Newman -

3/21/20

CLASS OF '69

Richard A. Ruzas, Sr. - 2/24/20

CLASS OF '73

Donald (E.) "Butch" Lang - 5/7/20

CLASS OF '74

Mickee (Mercer) Salz - 5/5/20

CLASS OF '78

Laurie Crockett - 12/13/19

CLASS OF '84

David Aldred - 5/10/20

CLASS OF '87

Douglas Gene Smith - 6/3/20

CLASS OF '91

Shaune W. Lewis - 7/2/20

CLASS OF '93

Timothy Brian Hall - 6/2/20

CLASS OF '04

Nathaniel Haptonstall - 12/24/19

CLASS OF '17

Alondra Isabel Acosta - 6/14/20

*Correction - Joyce (Ziegler) Sadowski '51
was incorrectly listed as deceased.*



Kewanee Schools Foundation
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Kewanee, IL 61443
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www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org

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KEWANEE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The KHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations
for the 2021 Hall of Fame Class.

Applications for nomination can be found at
www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org
and then go to Hall of Fame
or by contacting

Mindi Goard, Foundation Assistant at
309.856.8702 or mgoard@ksf229.org



Deadline to submit nomination forms is November 1, 2020.