

## APPENZELLER EARNS DIPLOMA OF DISTINCTION

By Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin

At the IHS Alumni Association June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, those in attendance, along with twenty-two of Tony Appenzeller’s family members, cheered him on when he received the Association’s Diploma of Distinction Award presented by IHS principal, William McGuinness. Born 81 years ago, Tony is a proud father of 4 children, and grandfather of 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. His first job was carpentry, working alongside his father. He is a Korean War vet and later on



LtoR: Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula, IHS Principal William McGuinness, Tony Appenzeller (52), Dale Veverka (70)

was proud to serve in the Independence Police Department as a jailer, part time then full time, then sergeant, lieutenant and ultimately as police chief.

Reminiscing about the past, he remembered when he was a senior and wore his Independence jacket to the Ohio Theater to see Debbie Reynolds and Gordon MacRae. He’ll never forget that Debbie sat on his lap and sang to him!

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### WINTER 2014



New Turf! Story on page 11

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## IHS ALUMS TAP INTO SOMETHING SPECIAL

by Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin

Many IHS graduates have interesting careers but none quite like **Kathy (Jurcago) Chappel** and her husband **Matt**, both 1989 graduates of IHS. They have two children; Karah, a freshman at IHS, and Thorin, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Independence Middle School. While sitting in their cozy Independence kitchen, they gave me the history of their micro brewery, **Indigo Imp**, located at 3615 Superior Avenue in Cleveland. They said the name of their brewery is a nod to the IHS Blue Devils.



*Continued on page 3.*

The IHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) organization with meetings held at 7:00pm in the Independence High School Media Center on the following dates:

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015                      September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015                         November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Monday, March 9th, 2015:** Alumni Association  
Quarterly Meeting, 7:00 PM at the IHS Media Center

**March, 2015:** Presenting the *Educator of Excellence*  
Award. Date and Time TBD

**Monday, June 8th, 2015:** Alumni Association  
Quarterly Meeting, 7:00 PM at the IHS Media Center  
*Presenting the Diploma of Distinction*

**Friday, July 31st – Saturday, August 1st, 2015:**  
Independence Homedays

**Sunday, August 2nd:** Alumni Breakfast in the Park

## Records Update/Newsletter Deadlines

If you have information about reunions, deaths, births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, major birthdays, photos, story suggestions, or would like to contribute to the *Alumni Spectator*, please email the editor or contact any Alumni officer. You don't have to be a writer – just send us the specific. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter, so be creative! Submissions may be edited and/or published at a later date.

### Alumni Spectator Submission Deadlines:

Spring 2015- *Sunday, May 10th, 2015*

Winter 2015 - *Sunday, November 15th, 2015*

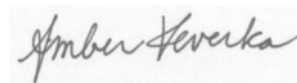
We are searching for people who are passionate about our Alma Mater. If you wish to contribute some news, share an idea, write an article, or join the *Alumni Spectator* staff, contact Editor Amber Veverka (07) by phone (216-408-7685) or email (amber.veverka@att.net).

## Editor's Note

Hello fellow alums! As the old saying goes, *out with the old and in with the new*, I am pleased to be writing this note in Microsoft Publisher as the new medium for our newsletter. We are always looking for feedback on these publications because this is YOUR newsletter! We have also added a new writer to our small but growing *Spectator* staff. We welcome new member **Candace Gesicki (06)** as our Alumni Announcements correspondent. Please contact her via email (candagegesicki@gmail.com) with all of your exciting alumni news!

We hope you enjoy this edition as we go into the holiday season.

Cheers!



## Alums Represent at Homecoming 2014



## IHS Alumni Association Board Member Contact Information

<b>President</b>	<b>Dale Veverka (70)</b>	<b>216-524-5977</b>	<b>squirrel70amx@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula</b>	<b>216-524-9383</b>	<b>rhoneeiula@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Honorary Vice President</b>	<b>William McGuinness</b>	<b>216-642-5860</b>	<b>High School Principal</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Wagner (66)</b>	<b>216-642-0920</b>	<b>GOAWagner@aol.com</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin</b>	<b>216-524-2461</b>	<b>bonnie.pandin@att.net</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Elaine (Wisnieski 57) Kukawka</b>	<b>440-526-2184</b>	<b>elainekukawka@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Bob Buchwald (75)</b>	<b>216-990-3265</b>	<b>rtbuchwald@gmail.com</b>
<b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Peggy Korecko (88)</b>	<b>216-956-1684</b>	<b>pkorecko@aol.com</b>
<b>Alumni Spectator Editor</b>	<b>Amber Veverka (07)</b>	<b>216-408-7685</b>	<b>amber.veverka@att.net</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Don Krolkowski (77)</b>	<b>216-524-8260</b>	<b>indybooster@ihsboosters.com</b>

## IHS Alums Tap Into Something Special

*(from page 1)*

When asked what type of educational background was important in opening up a brewery, Matt told me that his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Akron helped him design and build some of the machinery used at the brewery. Kathy's degree in Management and Information Systems from Bowling Green and her MBA at John Carroll helped with website design and financial aspects of the business. Kathy remembers IHS teacher Gene Michaels, and is convinced that her college prep courses at IHS helped her do well in college. Matt indicated that the smaller class sizes at IHS allowed for more creativity. He remembers with fondness science teacher Ben Kulwicki.

Matt had actually been brewing beer for his family's enjoyment for 15 years and only after repeatedly being told "This beer is so good you ought to sell it!" did he and Kathy decide to open a brewery in 2008. The process they use in brewing is open fermentation, so some wild yeast may enter the batch with tasty results. This is the original process used in Europe for centuries. This beer is naturally carbonated. Indigo Imp specializes in seven or eight different brews and a seasonal one. This winter their seasonal beer is called Winter Soul, a spiced Belgium ale. Their biggest seller is Blonde Bombshell.

Ingredients for beer making are sourced worldwide, with malted barley coming from Germany or Belgium and hops being procured from Europe or the U.S. However, the packaging and bottles are sourced locally. Environmental practices are utilized like recycling their water for cleaning and the spent grain being distributed to a local farmer.

When asked about their target market, Matt said "age 24 plus". Kathy said their target customer is anyone who enjoys a flavorful beer where one can taste the complex profile of grain, hops and yeast. They distribute to half of the state of Ohio and you can find their product at beverage and grocery stores. It is also available at the Independence Drug Mart. One of the bottles in the carton is dipped in wax as part of their signature statement.

Indigo Imp Brewery's tasting room is open on Friday from noon till 7 pm where bottled beer is also sold. They are proud to say they have four casks on tap with beer engines. When asked if they have any additional comment for *Alumni Spectator*, Kathy said "Independence Alumni, come on down!".

Visit their website at [www.indigoimpbrewery.com](http://www.indigoimpbrewery.com) for location and directions.



## Appenzeller Earns Diploma of Distinction

(from page 1)

Another memory unfolded in Korea, when he received a pass into town along with some other soldiers but they got lost. A tank pulled up behind them and told them to stop. When he got out of his truck, the MPs thought he and his buddies were defecting until they showed their passes. The MPs said the road they were



traveling on was filled with land mines! Had they proceeded, they would most certainly have been blown up!

A more light-hearted memory was when he was employed by the Independence Police Department and he delivered Mrs. Blaha's baby boy in a Ford station wagon. When Tony told Mrs. Blaha that her baby was a boy, she said she wasn't expecting a boy and could he check again? He did – same result! Several years later when dining at Foliano's with a friend, a 5 or 6 year old boy came over to him. Others pointed and said, this is the Christopher Blaha that you brought into the world!

Tony thanked the Association for honoring him with the Diploma of Distinction and members were asked to share memories.

IHS alum, Wes Gaab (42) remembered when he was a teacher at IHS in the early 50's and Tony was elected to student council. Tony wanted to have a talent show. The Master of Ceremonies was Bill "Smoochie" Gordon. Eight people auditioned for the parts along with Tony Appenzeller. Tony didn't win and the part was awarded to Dorothy Bramley (54)!



Tony (center) is congratulated by his family at the ceremony.

## 2014 Quarterly Meeting Highlights

### June 2014

After the *Diploma of Distinction* ceremony, principal McGuinness reported that the industrial arts teacher wants to initiate a robots program to promote interest in the field of engineering. He asked for the Alumni Association to consider making a gift next year to this program which was voted upon and passed for the sum of \$250.

There were 25 legacy ribbons given to seniors. Dale (70) and Amber Veverka (07) led the class of 2014 out after the commencement ceremony. The association received a Thank You note from \$500 scholarship winner, Kelly Jones (14).

A motion carried that current officers be re-elected. It was determined that a new Alumni Award plaque was needed as all spaces are filled.

### September 2014

IHS will be competing this year on Channel 5's Academic Challenge. The show will be taped in November and will be aired next April. The Academic Challenge team is coached by Mr. Eric Wells.

IHS has a brand new varsity sports team this school year: Varsity Girls' Golf. The team is coached by Middle School teacher, Karl Schuld. IHS has been named as one of the nation's Top High Schools by the Washington Post, U.S. News and World Report.

Tony DiGeronimo is donating a copy of the IHS 2014 Yearbook from Precision Environmental.

### November 2014

Bob Wagner made a motion that the *Educator of Excellence* presentation should be made an annual event. Last year this ceremony was held in lieu of a March quarterly meeting. It was decided that the March meeting was important and one should be held in addition to the *Educator of Excellence* ceremony, perhaps on the same date. The ceremony will be held at lunch time and the meeting at the regular evening time. Ceremony time is TBD.

Dale called for volunteers to read essays in conjunction with the 2015 alumni awards. Joyce Foliano, Gwen (Schmidt 68) Manfredi, and Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin offered to read the essays.

## Breakfast in the Park, Homedays 2014



Thank you to all who helped with another successful Breakfast in the Park, especially **Pat (Czarniak 60) Stephan, Chris Zam-**

**borsky (78), and Wendy (Schmidt 68) Manfredi.**

Chris will be heading up the breakfast next year.

We are very appreciative of the alumni and local



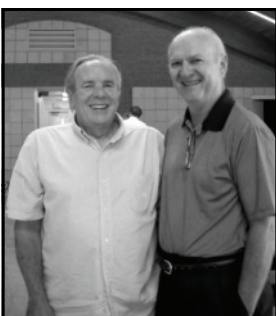
businesses that contributed gift certificates, gift baskets,



and other awesome prizes. More than 20 prizes with a combined value of over \$800

were raffled off!

There were 317 raffle ticket sales at the Alumni Breakfast in the Park. For the 3-day weekend including Homedays and the Breakfast, we raised a total of \$704. Great job to everyone who helped out!



## Calling All IHS Alumni:

Independence High School is in the process of helping current students who come to us and say things like, *"I am interested in becoming an engineer, but I have no idea what kind"* or *"What if I become a nurse but I don't want to be a floor nurse. What else can I do?"* or *"I want to go in to fashion design, what can I do with that?"*

We are looking to build a database of past grads from a variety of areas of studies- degree or non-degree- and interests. We want to be able to pull out a list of alumni and say, *"This person is a designer, why don't you talk to her?"* or *"How about you talk to so and so, they are an engineer (or a doctor, or a current student in communications, public health, music..."*

We would love to add you to our database. It's not a huge time commitment, it is simply a willingness to talk with students and help them to learn from your career path.

You do not have to hold a degree to be a part of this. Anyone with a willingness to help is invited!

If you are interested, please email the following information to [mdolejs@independence.k12.oh.us](mailto:mdolejs@independence.k12.oh.us) or call 216-642-5875 extension 1.

- Full Name
- IHS Graduating Year
- University Attended (or attending)
- Degree Earned (or working towards)
- Cell Phone Number
- E-Mail Address

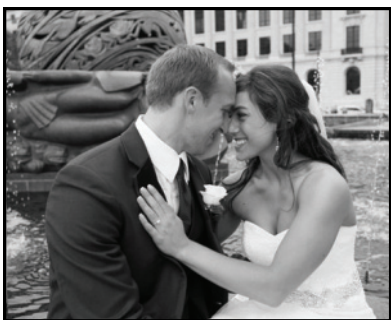


Mary L. Dolejs, Counselor

Independence High School  
6001 Archwood Road  
Independence, OH 44131



## Alumni News and Announcements



By Candace Gesicki (06)

← **Jim Allegra (05)** and **Gina Cipriano (06)** were married on August 2nd in Independence. Currently, Jim is working in commercial insurance at Dawson

Insurance in Rocky River and Gina is a Senior Program Manager at BCD Travel at Parker Hannifin where she plans corporate events and meetings. The couple resides in Independence with their dog.

→ **Sean Balewski (05)** married Amanda Apatzky on July 18th. Members of the wedding party were fellow alumni **Jim Allegra (05)** and **Bob Avila (05)**.



↓ **Elizabeth Guinto (06)** and **Cody DiLauro (06)** married at St. Basil

Church on November 1st. By their side stood fellow alumni **Jen Kershner (05)**, **Jennifer Guinto (00)**, **Alyssa Velotta (06)**, **DeAnna Pumper (06)**, **Keith**

**Ambramo (06)**, and **Dan Grendel (06)**. The couple lives in Columbus with their dog, Lilo.

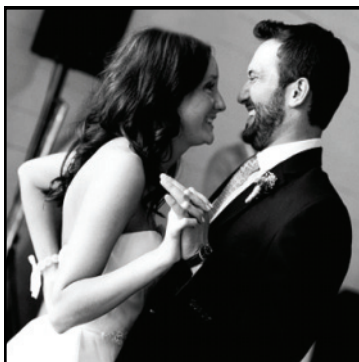


↓ **Haley Green (06)** married Nolan Markle this past spring. The couple met at Ohio State and is currently residing in Columbus. Haley teaches

special needs preschool for Columbus city and Nolan is an Orientation and Mobility Specialist for the visually impaired.

**Dani Palus (05)** married Jeff Salay on October 11th in Cleveland.

**Tim (05)** and **Melissa (Matejka 07) Hendrix** welcomed baby boy Jameson in August.



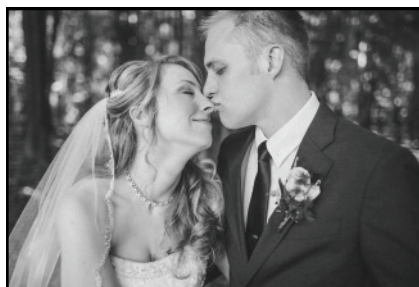
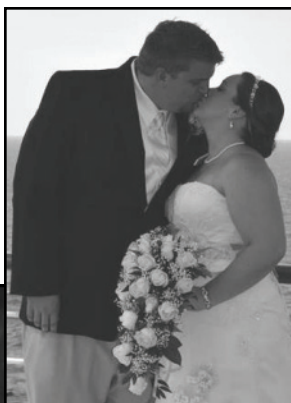
← Flower Show judges awarded our own **Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin** top awards in the Design Division at the Independence Garden Club's Bicentennial Flower Show held June 21st-22nd. Bonnie received First Place, the

*Table Artistry Award*, and the *Award of Design Excellence* for her interpretation of "Breakfast with the Mayor at the Civic Center". She also received First Place and the *Petite Award*, given for the finest miniature design, for her tribute to the "Bramley House".

→ **Nicole Flower (07)** married Tony Bresnen on October 11th. Nicole has a history degree from Baldwin Wallace and Tony has a biology degree from Wittenburg and a Master's in marine affairs from the University of Rhode Island.



→ **Kristen Day (08)** married Nate Toney on September 5th. Nate is a HSE Coordinator at Fauercia and Kristen works at Baxter Healthcare. The couple resides in Mississippi.



← **Amanda Moore (07)** and **Dan Bridenstine** were married on June 7th.

Amanda is finishing up her last semester of law school.

← **Sarah Gareau (97)** welcomed baby boy Theodore Brandon Gareau into the world on October 11th, weighing 7lbs, 5oz.



~Congrats to all!~

## **Reunion Updates**

### **Class of 1954: 60th Class Reunion**

The time was spring of 1954. The senior class of Independence High School was on the glide path to graduation and life was good. We now fast forward to the year 2014 and using the splendid education we gained at IHS in advanced math, we are reminded that 60 years have gone by.

On Saturday, August 9th, 2014, the class of 1954 celebrated their reunion. It was held at the Galik residence in Brecksville and catered by Lockkeepers of Independence. Eleven class member and their spouses and Mr. Wes Gaab, our class advisor, attended. The celebration was threefold. We celebrated 60 years, Mr. Gaab's 90th birthday, and the bicentennial of Independence.



c/o 1954 pictured LtoR (seated) Mr. Wes Gaab, Gloria Clark Benz. (Row 2) Jim Suci, Noretta Pinzone Penkalski, Glen Clymer, Gloria Delgado Brinkman. (Row 3) Don Novak, John Galik, Rich Delgado, Ken Schottke, Henry Fortlage. (Not pictured) Dottie Bramley Caster, Frank Kriedeman, Bob Mack, Ray Matejka, Ralph Taylor

### **Class of 1959: 55th Class Reunion**

The Class of '59 celebrated their 55th year reunion with a dinner at Harry's Steak House on Saturday, August 23rd, 2014. Twelve classmates and spouses shared memories and caught up on their lives. Some classmates also joined the Class of '57 on Friday for socializing.

We are still unable to find about one-third of our class, so if you should know any member's contact information, please let Irene Sebek Zand (imzand@hotmail.com) know. We need information for Carol Bates, Judy Cech, Noreen Deike, Jerry Diamond, Tom Duda, Gerald Fields, Jill Gimbel, Linda Giovanelli, Joan Hitchcock, Art Kuminski...

Linda Lambacher, Bob Luecht, Pat Marsh, Gay Meyer, Dick Montgomery, Rich Mondry, Frank Opatrny, Fred Pashko, Bob Pazul, Donna Roll, Dave Schapson, and Diane Sekura.

See the reunion photo on page 12.

### **Class of 1957: 57th Reunion**

The class of 1957 celebrated the 57th Reunion/75th Birthday (57/75) the last weekend of August. We began our celebration with a cocktail party at the Historic Bramley House to commemorate Independence's Bicentennial. We were joined there by members of the class of 1959, some of whom were married to or related to members of our class. Following the reception we were transported to The Skyway Drive-In, in Akron, reminiscent of our old haunt, Turf's. Burgers and shakes were served to us on the bus.

Saturday morning we toured the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and later that evening enjoyed a potluck dinner at the home of MaryAnn and Jack Katzenmeyer that included salmon and scallops flown in from Alaska by Theresa and Cy Asta, California wine provided by Wayne Merkle, and a replica of IHS in the form of a huge birthday cake. A gift from the class was given to the Independence Historical Society in honor of Wes Gaab's 90th birthday.

Brunch at the 100th Bomb Squadron Sunday morning, and dinner and drinks Tuesday night at Savannah's in Westlake rounded out a weekend we will long remember!



c/o 1957 pictured LtoR: Cy Asta, Nancy Wohl, Wes Gaab (honorary), Mary Helen Merkle, Shirley Bodziony, Jim Tyburski, Elaine Wisnieski, Don Shuki, Wayne Merkle, Carol Rybicki, Paul Chuha, Jack Katzenmeyer, Jay Boerwinkle

## In Memoriam

Eugene "Gene" Amari	Oct. 2014	Retired IHS Teacher and Coach.
Vincent Anderson	Sept. 2014	Father of Bonnie (79), Brent (82), and Brenda (83).
Juanita "Sam" Bresson	Aug. 2014	Mother of Stephanie (74), Karen (75), Nancy (76), Linda (77), Barbara (79), Scott (81), Timothy (86), and Brian.
Robert Briggs	Sept. 2014	Father of Lori and Robert (61).
Edith Cameli	Sept. 2014	Mother of Dan (59) and John (61).
Janine Chase	Nov. 2014	Mother of Jeff (04).
John Conway	Sept. 2014	Class of 1960.
Thomas "Zeke" Grajewski	Sept. 2014	Father of Jeffrey (05).
Kenneth Harris	Sept. 2014	Class of 1953.
Katherine (Clymer) Johnston	March 2014	Class of 1960.
Virginia Kuczmariski	Oct. 2014	Mother of Ronald (66), Kathleen (68), Daniel (72), and Richard (78).
Henry LoConti Sr.	July 2014	Father of Douglas (97), Robert (00), Carla (05), Chris (09), and Joseph (13).
Alice Mendyka	June 2014	Mother of Kathy (69), Janice (75), and the late Philip (71).
Robert Mrugacz	Oct. 2014	Father of Martin (83) and Christopher (87).
Mary Jane Murukis	May 2014	Mother of Christine (69) and Michael (74).
John Nicasastro	Aug. 2014	Class of 1943. Father of Judith (65), Deborah (72), and John Jr. (75).
Kathryn (Wisnieski) Randazzo	Sept. 2014	Class of 1941. Mother of John (63), James (65), Mary Kay (71), Robert (73), and Patricia (76) Korenowsky. Sister of Walter (38), and the late Thelma (39) Gerding.
Patricia (Bousi) Secunde	June 2014	Class of 1947. Wife of "Phil".
Howard Selig	June 2014	Class of 1963.
Joan Sidor	Aug. 2014	Retired IPS Music Teacher.
Willis Wells	July 2014	Father of Christina (80), Doug (82), and Eric (84).
Jeffrey Zucco	Oct. 2014	Class of 1960.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these lost loved ones...*

### Donate to the IHS Alumni Association

We are always looking for memorabilia from your high school years. If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact Elaine (Wisnieski 57) Kukawka at [elainekukawka@gmail.com](mailto:elainekukawka@gmail.com). As many items as possible are placed in the Alumni showcase at the high school for all to see along with your donation recognition.

**Ellin (Dinse 65) Stoots** recently donated a cap tassel with a '65 charm attached, a National Honor Society pin, a Spectator pin, a '65 lavalier, and a 1965 Commencement program.

Thank you, Ellin!







## *Educator of Excellence Award Nomination Letter*

**PURPOSE:** To recognize former Independence Local School District faculty members/administrators who exemplified the true meaning of an educator through their dedication and devotion to the students of our school district.

**GUIDELINES:** Nominees selected must be able to attend all induction activities to be held at the Independence Alumni Association's March meeting. This person must have been an Independence educator/administrator for at least 5 years.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete the entire form below and submit it by Jan. 25th. You may print or type your nomination form. Additional pages may be appended, if necessary. Mail your form to *Independence Alumni Association, 6001 Archwood Road, Independence, Ohio 44131*. Or, email your electronic form to [webmaster@ihsboosters.com](mailto:webmaster@ihsboosters.com). The review committee will send an acknowledgement of your nomination letter. Questions? Call 216-642-5882.

### **Candidate Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate contact information (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

This person is worthy of consideration because:

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### **Nominee Information**

I would be willing to speak at or assist in the presentation: (circle one) Yes No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time of day to reach me: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this Independence educator/administrator?

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
6001 ARCHWOOD, INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

"PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL MEMORIES. ONE CLASS AT A TIME"

(Please print legibly)

NEW \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment / Suite No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (Include Maiden Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse an IHS grad? \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your preference if you are interested in serving on a committee:

Alumni Spectator

Class Representative

Fund Raising

Historical

Membership

Nominating

Phone Calling

Public Relations

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Relatives

We would like to include IHS graduate family members in our mailing list. Please provide their information on an additional application or the back of this form. Include relationship, maiden name, class, and if applicable, deceased date.

Disclaimer

Membership information will not be released to any outside interests with the exception of a duplication company to publish an Alumni Directory. With your approval, membership information may be published in our Alumni Spectator. Access or use of a member's information other than for Alumni purposes is strictly prohibited.

I /Approve/ /Do Not Approve/ to publishing my information. \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle One Initials

**ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER YEAR**

**5-YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$40**

Annual Dues cover the period from June 1<sup>ST</sup> to May 31<sup>ST</sup> the following year

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO IHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WE ARE A 501(3)(c) ORGANIZATION

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dues Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution Amount

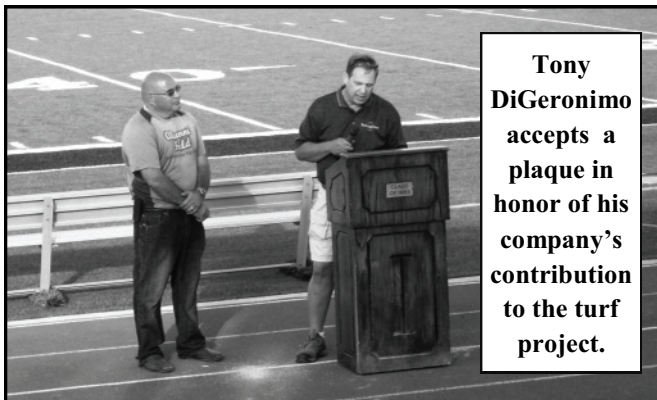
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Enclosed

Thank you for helping us give back to our alma mater. In 2014, we were able to provide two monetary awards to graduating seniors.

## Newly Turfed Alumni Field Is Dedicated

By Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin

The sun was shining on a beautiful summer evening, August 24th, for the grand opening of the newly turfed Alumni Field at Stan Skoczen Stadium. Just inside the gate, one could purchase IHS memorabilia and place orders for laser engraved brick pavers. The eye-catching Donor Appreciation Wall displayed names of all 333 Club Donors. Guests hurried to their seats in time for the IHS marching band to play the National Anthem. At the 50 yard line, Master of Ceremonies, Jim Riley, welcomed the crowd and presentations were made by Superintendent Steve Marlow, School Board President **Jerry Narduzzi (76)**, and Mayor Greg Kurtz.



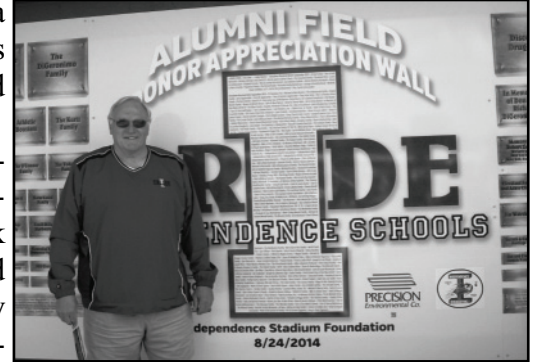
By 6:45 pm, the unveiling of the Alumni Arch was made by **Evelyn (Kurtz 36) Skoczen**, Joe O'Brien (IHS teacher 61-91), **Bob Wagner (66)**, **Dale Veverka (70)**, **Mark Spann (69)**, **Bob O'Connor (72)**, **John Gans (74)**, **Mark Suhay (75)**, **Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula**, **Kristy LaBella (93)**, **Ron Brocco (85)**, **Lisa Joy (Gazdak 83) Kemenyes**, **Joe DiGeronimo (01)**, **Megan Osysko (08)**, and **Patrick Wisnieski (14)**. The arch, featuring an image of the Independence Blue Devil at the top, was donated by alums **Lisa Joy (Gazdak 83) Kemenyes** and **Duane Kemenyes (77)**.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, there was an introduction of Independence Stadium Foundation Officers comprising Chairman Robert C. Fields, President Ron Bernstein, Vice President John Kapusta, Secretary Maggie Osysko, and Treasurer Kenn M. Synek.



Superintendent Steve Marlow presented a Donor Plaque to **Tony DiGeronimo (75)** and **Nick DiGeronimo (82)** of DiGeronimo Companies.

By 7 pm, the IHS cheerleaders, band members, and athletic teams and coaches were introduced as they relayed around the track. After the marching band played their concluding song, magician Rick Smith provided a few minutes of on-field entertainment. Later, spectators were invited to walk upon the field – which they did with gusto!



Above: **Bruce Riha (61)** by the Donor Appreciation Wall

## Holiday Shopping Made Easy!

If you are looking for a great gift for your student athlete or someone special in your life, we are selling short-sleeved “Dri-FIT style” t-shirts at IHS through the Independence Stadium Foundation.

If you are interested in this perfect gift for friends and family, stop at IHS and see Mary Dolejs or Patti Carssel. Checks should be made payable to *Independence Stadium Foundation*.

Thanks for your support! A photo of the shirt design is below. “Alumni Field” is in yellow and the rest is in blue.

**Shirts are \$11 each.** Sizes are limited so order soon!



**INDEPENDENCE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**

6001 Archwood Road  
Independence, Ohio  
44131-4965

indybooster@ihsboosters.com



~Your Alumni  
Association~

*"Promoting  
educational  
memories, one class  
at a time"*



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Visit our Website:

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**Next Meeting:  
Monday, March 9th,  
2015 at 7:00 PM**

**at the Independence  
High School  
Media Center**

***See you there!***

(Postage)

(Address Label Here)



**Alumni at Homecoming 2014**



**← Jim  
Sharkey  
(61) and  
Carol  
Fortlage  
help out  
at the  
booth**



**→ Alum  
Kyle Pol-  
man (13)  
signs the  
guest book  
at  
Homedays**



**c/o 1959 LtoR: Irene Sebek Zand, Kathy Kaiser Zakrajsek,  
Bonnie Otto Hudson, Judy Prucha, and Barb Steyskal Schnei-  
der. Back row: Ted Soberay, Joe Pekarek, Clarence Koller,**

**(Below) Enjoying  
Brunch are mem-  
bers of the class of  
1978 LtoR: Rick  
Kuczmariski, Kelly  
Hatfield, Chris  
Zamborski, and  
Carolyn (Duda)  
Kuczmariski**



**The IHS replica birthday cake in honor  
of Wes Gaab from the class of 1957**

