



Derwin Prize Awarded

One of the largest scholarships awarded to a Housatonic student is the Margaret Derwin Blue Sky Scholarship, established in memory of Ms. Derwin, a Canaan native who graduated from Housatonic in 2005 with the goal of becoming a social worker. The grant provides the recipient with \$25,000 in each year of a four-year college education.

Ms. Derwin was accepted at Wheelock College in Massachusetts and assembled numerous scholarships and private support for her undergraduate tuition and a master's program at the college, but just before graduate school was about to start she was diagnosed with cancer and died in November 2010.

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New Science & Technology Center

The Clarke B. Wood Agricultural Center has come into the 21st century because of a group appropriately named the 21st Century Fund. Once the site of activities geared toward the vocational agriculture program at the school, it is now the Mahoney-Hewat Science and Technology Center.

Named for the late John L. "Jack" Mahoney, a longtime teacher, coach and principal at Housatonic Valley Regional High School who conceived the fund's concept, and Diane Hewat, a stalwart supporter of the fund, the building will serve as a site that provides many opportunities for the region's students.

The group's members have worked to seek grants and private donations for the



Volunteers Lynn Nania, David Lindsay and David Bayersdorfer spent months painting the interior of the new science and technology center.

center where students can learn about aspects of math, science and technology that will give them the skills to address the problems they

will face in the future, such as food, fuel and water shortages, epidemics and pollution.

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Envirothon Team Again Makes Us Proud

The Envirothon Team, under the coaching of ag-ed teacher David Moran, continues to rack up awards. This summer the group came in sixth out of 54 North American teams in the latest Canon Envirothon held in Selinsgrove, Penn., taking home \$7,000 in scholarships. The event is the largest high school environmental education competition.



The Housatonic Envirothon Team at the 2012 Canon Envirothon held in Selinsgrove, Penn.

Team members are: Emma Okell, '12, of Sharon, Becket Harney '13, of Salis-

bury, Matt Matsudaira, '13, of Cornwall, Brian Saccardi, '13, of Cornwall and Jordan

Long, '13, of Canaan, along

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A. Vernali, R. Heacox Get Alumni Scholarships

Each year the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from the school who has been accepted at an institution of higher learning and had parents or grandparents who graduated from Housatonic. This year there was a tie, so we are awarding two scholarships.

Adam Vernali, '12, of Canaan, is one of the recipients. His mother, **Shannon May Vernali**, was in the class of 1979, his father, **Todd Vernali** graduated in 1982, his grandmother **Jean Ann Casey Vernali** graduated in 1954 and his grandfather **Robert May** was in the class of 1954.

The second award winner is **Ryan Heacox**, '12, of Sharon. His mother is **Lynn McGuire Heacox**, '78, his father is **Edward Heacox, Jr.**, '73, his grandmother **Bunny Cecchinato McGuire** graduated in 1955 and his grandfather **James McGuire**, in 1950.

Table, Podium Donated For Use at Graduations

said of this year's competition. Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1961, a new podium now joins the diploma table during graduation ceremonies. The table, handcrafted by **Teeter Riva**, '49, of Canaan, was presented last year by the class and this year the podium made its first appearance at the June ceremonies.

The podium has special meaning, since it was made from wood from the beloved white oak tree that came down a few years ago. It had stood on the school property since before the school was constructed in 1939. Crafted by **David**

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Envirothon Team Places 6th

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with alternates **Nate Brooks**, '13, and **Cristian Umana**, '14.

This is the ninth year the school has fielded a team. The agri-science department has been involved in the

North American competition for six years. In its second Canon competition in 2007, the Housatonic team came in first.

"Our team represented Connecticut and the Northwest Corner very well at the 25th anniversary of the Canon Envirothon," Mr. Moran

Tech Center Moves into 21st Century

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Plans call for providing them the chance to test alternative energy sources, design and build their own inventions, clone plants, use a DNA lab and run a television station, among other activities. Former science teacher **David Lindsay**, who was a prime force in the building's conversion, hopes he can set up a Lego program in the building.

He and his colleague, retiree **David Bayersdorfer**, along with **Lynn Nania**, an-

other 21st Century Fund volunteer, spent hours and hours wielding paint brushes so the walls are now brightly colored. They enlisted the help of vo-ag students when they could.

The first activity to be held at the newly opened 6,000-square-foot center in April was a day-long course for Region 1 middle school science teachers. The workshop featured a course given by **Jacklyn Bonneau** from **Vernier**, an Oregon-based firm. The teachers worked on data collection technology

using a set a classroom probes that can determine such things as temperature and pressure. **Douglas Weisman**, who taught at Housatonic before moving over to **Salisbury School**, came up with the idea for the workshop and the 21st Century Fund was able to get a \$20,000 grant from **Newman's Own** for the class.

Carol Schulz, a former Region 1 teacher and member of the fund, said the goal is to attract students from all over the region to use the facility.

Word of Advice

Housatonic alumni have been receiving emails from organizations purporting to be the official alumni website of HVRHS. They use names similar to ours, but are in no way affiliated with our school. The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association does not solicit membership by mail asking for money. If you receive any such solicitation, we advise discarding it or contacting the board of directors at curtmechare@comcast.net.

New Podium Carries on White Oak Symbolism

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Brigham, the podium was formally presented to Principal Matthew Harnett a week before graduation by class members Mickey Riva, Dean Hammond and Martin Whalen.

In accepting the gift, Mr. Harnett expressed his gratitude and said creating the podium out of the tree was "fantastic."

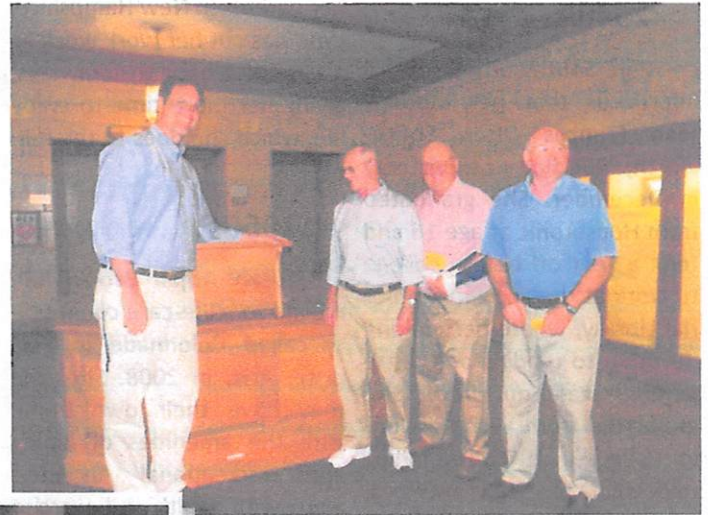
Class member Linda Rhoades Fitzgerald said, "A part of the white oak still lives on at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and so do a lot of its graduates' great memories."

And Speaking of Gifts

Housatonic graduates appear to have a special bond with their alma mater and want the school to continue to

flourish long after they've received their diplomas. A group of women from the Class of '43 presented the school with an amplifier for Room 133, which was needed to improve its acoustics. The funds come from donations of remaining classmates who number about a dozen.

"We wanted to give a gift that would be useful," said Julia Del Tenno Segalla.



Above, members of the class of '61, Mickey Riva, Dean Hammond and Martin Whalen present new podium to Principal Matthew Harnett. (far left). Left, a close-up of the podium and its inscription



Alexa Curtiss Wins First Derwin Scholarship in June



Alexa Curtiss

Alexa Curtiss of Sharon, who graduated this June, is the first recipient of the award. She received an additional \$5,000 to take part in a community service project after her junior year and chose to work at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, the largest such facility in the country, located on a 33,000-acre ranch near Kanab, Utah.

Ms. Curtiss, daughter of Cynthia and Gary Curtiss, said 30 of her classmates applied and two were interviewed. She will be attending Wheelock College in Boston, which coincidentally was the school Ms. Derwin attended.

She hopes to pursue a degree as a certified child life specialist.

"I want to work with kids with illnesses and their families, either those who will recover or those who are terminally ill," said Ms. Curtiss.

She is particularly pleased for her mother, who said she just couldn't help her daughter with college costs and that she'd probably graduate burdened with huge loans.

At Housatonic, Ms. Curtiss was an honor student and was involved in the FFA program and was a member of the chorus. Outside of

school she volunteered at The Little Guild of St. Francis animal shelter, the Housatonic Child Care Center and with the elderly.

A group of Northwest Corner residents pooled their resources to endow the grant, which will be administered by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. According to a news release from the foundation, the donors want to encourage local public high school students "to dream big, set aspirations high and take firm steps to achieve what might seem impossible but is achievable with vision, talent and effort."

Alumni News By Class and Decade

1940s

Pam Southworth wrote to inform us that her mother, Joan Frances Olsen Southworth, '46, died unexpectedly in December. She graduated from Housatonic at age 16 and took a year off before college to work at the Scoville Memorial Library, where her lifelong devotion to reading and letter writing was nurtured. She graduated from Vermont Junior College in 1949. The family relocated to New Milford, where she worked in both the probate court and town clerk's office. She is survived by two daughters.

1950s

Roger "Pudge" Thompson, '53 would like to hear from '53 team members, cheerleaders or survivors at rogerthompson8446@gmail.com. He writes, "Mary and I are surviving in the Phoenix desert. It's hot as hell in the summer and freezing in the winter with no snow. P.S. I'm living up to the 'pudge' part!"

Lynn Hunter Cline, '58, states her bucket list is getting shorter all the time. This past year she traveled to Nepal and the majestic, mystical Himalayas, trekking up to 15 miles each day with her party. Excursions included white-water rafting on the Seti River, a jungle safari on an elephant and photographing rhinos in the wild. And, to top that off, she became the proud great-grandmother of Apple, a beautiful baby girl who resides with

her parents in New Hampshire. Lynn has cut her work week as a paralegal back to four days, giving her more time to enjoy life, which she does to the fullest.

1960s

Susan Argall Brown '60, moved to a life-care community called Colonnade in Surprise, Ariz. in 2008. She said they have their own home with the amenities of dining and recreational facilities, along with health and exercise classes both where she and her husband, Jerry, live and at the neighboring retirement community called Sun City Grand built about 12 years ago. Jerry is a retired chemical engineer. She said they were fortunate to live in such countries as Egypt, Iraq, Indonesia, Vietnam and Azerbaijan over many years. "We continue to have the travel bug and in 2011 went to see friends and tour about India, then with visiting Swiss friends explored more of Arizona, later to Bryce and Zion canyons in Utah and wound up the year for a two-week stay in Sicily." They hope to get to Southeast Asia one more time to see friends in Thailand, where Susan served in the Peace Corps from 1964 to 1966, and to return to Vietnam. Still on the list of overseas travels are Ireland and return trips to Spain, Portugal, England, and her favorite, Italy. "Retirement is not for the weak and lazy, that's for sure!"

Kathy Carley Schwar, '60, remembers her days at HVRHS fondly. Kathy married Jay Ste-

vens in 1963, had seven children (now has 10 grands), was widowed in 1989 and married Joe Schwar, also widowed, in 1998. He has four children and five grandchildren. Now living in south central Pennsylvania on Lake Meade, Kathy and Joe enjoy family, boating, entertaining, volunteerism; golf for him and music for her. Both husbands were career military officers, as was her brother, Mike, who was killed in Vietnam. Kathy has high regard, honor and respect for those who serve and who have served our country.

Robert Bohlmann, '58 writes from Wells, Maine, that "It is with heavy heart and many great memories" that he reports that Laura Stenman Bohlman, '60, passed away in July 2011 after a 10-month progressive illness. "HVRHS was always a big part of her life and she never missed a reunion," he wrote. "Her classmates were always in her thoughts."

Dean Hammond, '61, and Gail Neville Hammond, '65, completed the last leg of an around-the-world cruise this past fall. The first leg of this adventure began in 2004 when they sailed from New York to San Diego via the Panama Canal. The following year they sailed from San Diego to Hawaii. For the next seven years the couple filled in the gaps westward from Hawaii to New York. Some of the most remembered ports were Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Thailand, India, Jordan, France and

Switzerland. Their last voyage (28 days) took them from Italy, Greece and Jordan through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to Oman; and the Indian Ocean to Singapore, exactly halfway around the globe. Other adventures over the years have taken them to Antarctica and the Seven Wonders of the World. This spring they traveled to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador and Machupicchu in Peru. In all they have visited 71 countries and seven continents. Next on their itinerary is Russia, Iceland, Greenland and the Amazon. Gail and Dean spend much of the winter at Island Paradise Beach Village on the island of St. Kitts where, they say, the Housy family is always welcome.

Julia Rosseter Shell, '63, now lives in Chiefland, Fla. She has recently retired. She was married to the late Ken "Doc" Brown, '55. They both came from Lakeville. She has two sons and four grandchildren. Julia said she is hoping her class is planning a 50th reunion for next year.

Keith Harring, '64, won his second Ohio high school girls state soccer championship last fall as an assistant coach at Summit Country Day. It is the fourth time in the past seven years he has coached in the finals. He was previously head coach at Badin High School. He also previously won two Ohio high school state ice hockey championships.

1970s

Alumni News By Class and Decade

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Rick Hotaling '72, writes, many classmates and locate so "On Saturday evening, July 14, many folks. Lots couldn't 51 classmates and their attend, but they are in touch guests, for a total of 74, gathered at the Canaan Country Club for a great evening of fun celebrating 40 years since graduation. The weekend started with a small picnic gathering at **Debbie Garfield Martin's** on Friday evening. Saturday, a good group gathered at HVRHS for a tour conducted by **Dot Cecchinato '47**. When the alarm system was activated inadvertently and the police came. It took us back to Senior Day when numerous members of our class had close relations with the local constabulary in multiple states ... fortunately none of us were hauled away this time, but it sure made for a great laugh! Limey's provided a perfect setting, the meal was fine, the drinks were cold and the noise from all the people talking to old friends, and many making new friends (after all, who talks to all their classmates when they are 15 to 18 years old?) added to the festivities. We had hours of planned music from '68 to '72 on an iPad hooked to a great sound system, so we ended the evening with many doing some dancing. As co-chairman, along with **Sue Downey Gawel**, I found it really was an awesome evening that we had started planning way back in the late fall. We are planning to meet again in FIVE years, as all felt waiting 10 just wasn't a good thing. A note to other classes planning reunions. One word ... Face-book. We were able to find

for just us, which members can frequent. This event was, without a doubt, one of the best moments of my high school career. Helping give so many folks a weekend to remember is a very satisfying feeling.

Katie Sherwood Wood, '75, has been the assistant principal's secretary at Housatonic for the past three years. She lives in Salisbury with her husband, of 31 years, **Jim Wood, '69**. Jim is president/owner of Lakeville Taxi in Salisbury. They have two children, **Chrystine Wood Giles, '00**, who graduated from Hobar and **William Smith in 2005** with a master's degree in elementary education and special education. **Chrystine** lives in Port Perry, Ontario, Canada, with her husband, **Jamie**, and daughter **Katherine Anne**. Their son **CJ, '02**, graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2011 with a degree in sports management. He is working at Rentschler Field in West Hartford completing his internship.

2000s

Ned Corkery '06, enjoys keeping in touch with **Mr. Guy** and **Mr. Belter**.

Ben Gerowe, '07, is an associate technical artist at Turbine Inc., a division of Warner Brothers in the Boston area. His dad, **Rob**, writes, "Ben works on the "Lord of the Rings" as an animator and



Members of the class of 1943 donated money for an amplifier for Room 133. Seated, from left: **Julia Del Tenno Segalla, Martha Dickinson Bergenty** and **Lucille Whitney Marston**. Standing: **Doris Cunningham Carberry, Helen Loughlin Krupa, Evelyn Dorizzi Cornelio** and **Betty Mazur Sojka**.

technical artist. He is loving it." Central Connecticut State University's website is <http://www.ccsu.edu/bengerowe.com>. Ben is a 2011 graduate of Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

2010s

Dylan Vadakin '10, of Canaan, was named to the dean's list at Berkshire College of Music in Boston for the fall 2011 semester. He is the son of **Beth Miller** and **Dan Vadakin**.

Cornelia (Nellie) Smith, '10, of Salisbury was named to William Smith College's dean's list for the fall 2011 semester. She is a member of the school's Chorale, a staff writer for the newspaper and a tutor for the America Reads program. She has been selected as one of 12 writing colleagues for this year's incoming Smith class.

Elizabeth Greco, '10, of Canaan, was named to the dean's list for the fall term at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., for the 2011 fall term. An English major, she is the daughter of **Sally and Richard Greco**.

Kara Riley, '10, daughter of **Lisa and Kevin Riley**, was named to the dean's list at

**Housatonic Valley Regional
High School Alumni
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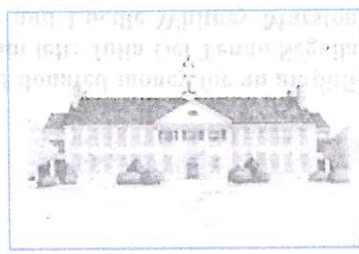
246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, CT 06041

Phone: 860-927-4057
E-mail: kcsruthe@aol.com



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We're on the Web at
hvrhsalumni.com



Dear Alumnus:

Remember back to junior prom, our great sports teams, the musical productions and all the other wonderful activities we experienced. Most of all, we remember the friendships we made.

Over the past 15 years, the Blue 'n' Gold has kept you in touch with classmates, teachers and the current news of the school.

While we encourage receipt of the newsletter by e-mail, there are still about half the alumni, more than 1,000 of them, who would prefer to receive a hard copy. It is expensive to publish it twice a year. To that end, we are asking for contributions for the specific purpose of printing the newsletter. Any donations to continue the tradition and the support Housatonic alumni have shown would be greatly appreciated.

Please make checks payable to HVRHS Alumni and send to: Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

Sincerely,

HVRHS Alumni Association

ALUMNI! NEWS BY CLASS AND DECADE