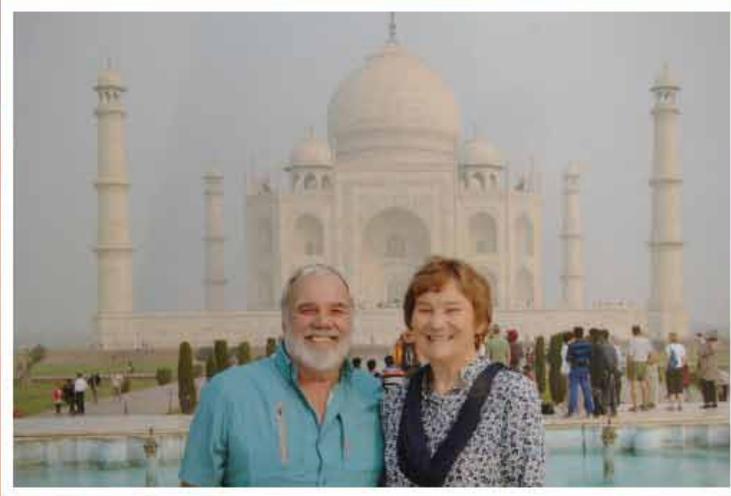


# ALUMNI *Dream Catcher*

SPRING 2015



Clockwise: Chuck and Nancy Sweetman in India, Anne Bakke and Bailey Adams, Prewitt Scholarship Anthony Kalil, Class of 2000, Jerry Swenson, on patrol in Vietnam.

## Thoughts from Julie DeVries, Executive Director



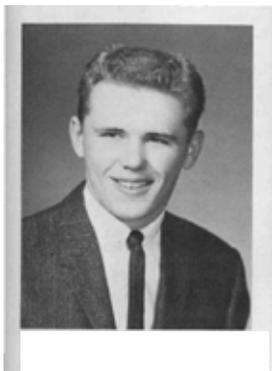
I have discovered through the process of creating the Alumni Dream Catcher newsletter that this is one of my favorite parts of my job. Learning what our alumni have done and are doing since graduating from Forest City High School is a lot of fun. Also, there is a sense of pride for our school and community and reaffirms that Forest City is a great place to live and raise a family. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Alice Lewellen, one of the foundation's board members, for her willingness to contact alumni and write articles. She's been able to stay in touch with so many of her former students and always makes great connections.

Celebrating the success of Forest City students is exciting for us. Along with the Academic Banquet, Senior Awards Night was held on May 13, 2015. The Forest City Education Foundation awarded over \$292,000 in scholarships to college-bound seniors. We also had the opportunity to recognize students with many awards and scholarships from outside organizations and are excited the Class of 2015 received nearly \$900,000 that night. We are aware seniors also receive numerous awards from their colleges and universities and not all were shared with us. In the past we've been able to bring those students onto the stage. However, as awards night continues to grow, those recognitions were moved to the program insert. We are confident that well over a million dollars was awarded to the Forest City High School Class of 2015 when all scholarships, awards and grants are considered.

Operation Landing Zone is a very special event our community is looking forward to this summer. That being said, I felt it only appropriate to honor Vietnam Vets who are alumni and/or staff from Forest City High School. You will read articles written by each of three Foss brothers, Darrell, Dale and Denis all who served in Vietnam, a story on Leo Durant, the first injured soldier from Forest City and Jerry Swenson, Forest City High School's Art teacher for 31 years. I am certain it's difficult to put into a few words an experience like war and I am learning that each Veteran most likely had a much different experience than the soldier next to him. Thank you to the men who willingly shared their stories.

Winnebago County sent 543 of our children to the Vietnam War. Four graduates of Forest City High School lost their lives in Vietnam: Mike Skogerboe, class of 1962, Donald Lammers, class of 1962, Paul Carson, class of 1964 and Bob Davis, class of 1967. As I researched these young men one article started, "Mr. and Mrs. David Carson and Mrs. Paul Carson were notified Tuesday of the death of their son and husband, Sp 4 Paul David Carson, 23. He was killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam on the 15th of March while on a combat operation." My heart goes out to any family who receives news like this.

It's a privilege to highlight a few of our Vietnam Vets in this edition of the Alumni Dream Catcher. Operation LZ hopes to be the welcome home that was never received at the time. Thank you to those who have worked to make this it happen. For more information on the event, please visit: [www.operationlz.com](http://www.operationlz.com) and "like" North Iowa Vietnam Veterans Committee on Facebook.



Dennis Michael Skogerboe  
1944-1969

The Defense Department said Lieutenant Skogerboe was killed Aug. 24 while moving a platoon of the 25th Infantry Division to cover at Chi Chi.



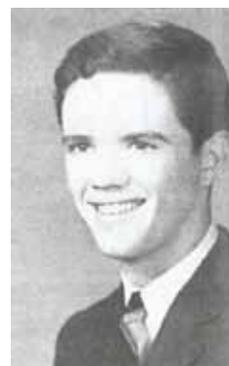
Paul D. Carson  
1946-1970

An infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division and stationed near DaNang, he was killed Sunday by a land mine explosion while engaged in combat action. He was awarded the rating of sergeant posthumously.



Donald Gary Lammers  
1944-1968

This U.S. military casualty and loss, killed in action KIA when his helicopter was shot down near Quang Nam.



Robert Roy Davis  
1948-1970

Robert 'Bob' R. Davis was a mortarman in an artillery unit of the 101st Airborne Infantry division, and was at an artillery firing position when he was killed by North Vietnamese sappers 38 miles north of Da Nang.

## Sixth Annual Academic Banquet

Forest City Education Foundation honored 84 students, grades nine through twelve on April 9th, 2015 at the Sixth Annual Academic Banquet. Nearly 300 students, families, staff, and board members were in attendance as these students were recognized for their academic excellence.

Students received Academic Letters based on meeting two of the following criteria: a student must be in the top 7% of class and must have an ITED National Percentile Rank of 85 or higher on the Reading Comprehension, Math Total and Science tests. Students must have a composite score on the ACT of 27 or higher, a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher; and/or attendance of 97% or higher.



**Class of 2018:** Jaden Alamsya, Danica Bang, Noah Brown, Hannah Buffington, Brea Dillavou, Dylan Jenkins, Chris Jermeland, Jaxon Jones, Josiah Kleveland, Madison Kleveland, Spenser Larson, Jon Loeschen, Callie McQuown, Samuel Redinger, Helen Rockwell,

Emily Sichanthongthip, Wyatt Steffensen, Jacob Tendall, Ryan Theel, Ethan Torkelson, Shaden Tweeten, Makayla Vogt, Jacob Welton

**Class of 2017:** Brianna Adams, Ethan Alsop, Caprice Anderson, Jericho Baker, Nick Bohnstengel, Kyle Brown, Cody Bruns, Josilin Dillavou, Halle Jo Johnson, Jacob Jurgensen, Nick Kistler, Andrew Kuhn, Rhiannon Lewis, Jason Mielke, Ashley Olson, Caitlyn Owen, Rachel Saatmann, Payton Skjeie, Mitch Solberg, Jacob Wilson, Austin Yeager



**Class of 2016:** Lydia Aberg, Dylan Bolinger, Carrie Brcka, Cheyanne Chapin, Logan Hall, Halle Hickman, Caleb Hovenga, Leah Jones, Emily Koch, Maggie Mathiasen, Alannah Olson, Kyle Post, Jacob Rivera,

Jonathan Sanasinh, Medeline Slater, Shawna Stricker, Nathan Theel, Luke Tweeten, Hannah Vaughan, Stuart Yi

**Class of 2015:** Bailey Adams, Micah Bang, Madeline Buffington, Autumn Busta, Tara Doughty, Erich Erdman, Ethan Erdman, Carter Henken, Rachel Koch, Justin Kuhn, Austin Lewis, Eric Muench, Jake Parks, Hannah Rosacker, Tanner Smoley, Beau Sorenson, Kyra Sorenson, Tanner Thompson, Jane Walrod, Amanda Wilson



The speaker for the evening was John Baylor. Many Forest City students are familiar with John Baylor's entertaining style of communicating his message. John graduated from Middlesex School in Concord, MA and then Stanford University. Brief careers in banking, acting and sportscasting convinced him that his true passion is teaching.

JBP's contrarian test taking techniques have inspired students for two decades, improving scores, scholarship and college choices. The Forest City Education Foundation sponsors and pays for the John Baylor ACT Test Prep course for sophomores, juniors or seniors preparing for the ACT. The 12-week course is offered several times a year with the final prep class coinciding with Saturday ACT test dates. Since implementing the program at Forest City, students have seen improvement in their ACT scores which in turn can result in higher scholarship opportunities. The Foundation also reimburses students completing JBP for their ACT fee. "This is a win-win for the students. Our support of this program gives them a no-cost opportunity to improve their chances for additional scholarships," Julie DeVries said.

## Cathy Goranson Thompson - Class of 1982

by Alice Lewellen



"I am constantly learning from my students as they challenge me to find ways to modify an age appropriate activity alongside their peers," says Cathy Goranson Thompson who was named the Developmental Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year in Minnesota. She has taught in the St. Cloud School District for 25 years.

Cathy, who is a graduate of Forest City High School, went to Waldorf directly after high school and played softball there. After graduating from Waldorf, she went to Augustana in Sioux Falls and also played softball. On a J-term her senior year she interned in a Developmental Adapted Physical Education Class and that is when she decided that she would like to pursue this career. She went to St. Cloud State University where she could obtain the licensure for this position and after putting in several hours in the local school district, she was hired to teach in the St. Cloud Area schools where she has been employed ever since.

Cathy says that she decided to become a physical education teacher because of Pat Formanek who was her middle school physical education teacher. "I have never told her, but I admired how she involved everyone in her class. She always seemed to enjoy her job and the kids. She made it fun. Pat pushed us, but we always had fun being active."

Developmental Adapted Physical Education (or DAPE) is specially designed for physical education instruction and services for pupils with disabilities or substantial delay or disorder in physical development. DAPE is for pupils from ages three to 21 and may include development of physical fitness, fundamental motor skills and patterns, skills in aquatics, dance, individual and team sports.

Cathy's job allows her to travel between schools to service students from ages 3 to 21. "I help preschool children teaching them gross motor skills. They are like sponges and love whatever I have for them to do. They have the ability to brighten my day whenever I am with them. I have a caseload of about 55 kids. During most of the day I have groups of kids anywhere from 1-4 at a time.

I do have 16-18 at a time with the 4-5 year olds, but I have a lot of support from the classroom teachers and the paraprofessionals. I also try to go into the mainstream physical education class and modify and adapt activities as needed. I work closely with paraprofessionals to help them follow through with the modifications when I am not able to be in the gym with them. For each group that I have the activities are dictated by what the needs for each student are. We practice skills so that when they go into mainstream PE they are ready to try the skills alongside their peers."

Cathy says she enjoyed growing up in a small town. "It grounded me. I had so many good teachers, coaches and role models at FCHS that helped me become the person I am today. In a small town you are not just a number in a class but a person. You can get to know your teachers and build relationships with them. As a result, they are able to push their students and get more out of them to be the best they can be."

Her parents were also a great influence on her, Cathy says. "I respected them and always wanted to make them proud. They were always there to support whatever endeavor I was taking on. They spent a lot of time in the bleachers cheering on the boys and girls of FCHS and my mother still does." To be chosen for the award which she received, Cathy was nominated by a colleague who stated "Her enthusiasm for her work with children and her joy in celebrating their successes is contagious." As a result of this nomination, Cathy received the Allen Burton DAPE Leadership Award. After this award, Cathy was asked to answer some questions to be considered for the Minnesota DAPE Teacher of the Year award. In 2013, she was honored with this award.



Cathy noted that she still has several close friends in her classmates and when they get together, it is just like old times. Her advice to graduating seniors is "Be yourself. Everything else will fall into place if you can do this throughout your life."

Cathy and her husband Steve Thompson live in Buffalo, Minnesota with their Golden Retriever Zoe.

## Roger Schaefer - Class of 1950 Husband, Father, Grandpa and Friend to All

by Julie DeVries

Roger Schaefer was one of those men who could brighten anyone's day by simply walking into the room. Roger was perhaps what most would call a "Jack of all trades", he was called upon many times to fix this or do that and regardless of how busy he was, Roger would always manage to make time for whatever happened to be the project of the day.



Roger was born in Klemme and went to school there until the ninth grade. His family bought a farm near Forest City in 1947. Roger played football in high school, was active in F.F.A and graduated in 1950. Roger and Mary Fosse were married on May 28, 1955 and would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past May. Roger worked a variety of jobs after graduating from high school and in 1974 he became Director of Maintenance for Forest City Community School District working there until he retired in 1995. As a coworker, "Roger's smiling eyes and humor were things I looked forward to every day." He was known to give students a hug and ask if they were doing ok or made a trip to a new teacher's room on a regular basis to check in on how it was going. A highlight for Roger each year was the Special Olympics held in Forest City. "Roger really enjoyed seeing all the kids and one year was the Grand Marshall for the event," his wife, Mary, said. In 2003, Roger was inducted into the Forest City School District Hall of Fame and honored for his years of dedication and hard work.

Roger's family and friends will always remember his quick wit, willingness to help those who called with an emergency and his ability to repair almost anything. His years of experience combined with his own creative solutions gave him the ability to fix almost anything quickly and inexpensively. Roger's brother Don said, "When my wife and I could still come to Forest City, I recall that Roger would get calls asking for help with someone else's problem, and I never heard Roger say "No", even when he was on vacation. In the late 40's there was a movie in which Gary Cooper played the title role of "Good Sam". In our family, I think of Roger as our "Good Sam", and I suspect that many in Forest City (in addition to those of us in his family) would agree."

Through generous memorial gifts to the Forest City Education Foundation, the Schaefer Family established the Roger Schaefer Memorial Scholarship to be given to a student going into a trade career. Roger and Mary's son, Dave presented the first award in May.



## Daughters of Stan and Kit Zirbel Establish Scholarship in honor of their parents

by Julie DeVries

Stan and Kit Zirbel lived on a farm southeast of Fertile, trusted in hard work, saved money and raised five successful daughters: Janice Hare, Karen Weld (presenting scholarship), Amy VanNote, Jill Murray and Eileen Zirbel. It seemed they never had much money for themselves and never believed in others taking care of them. So as they aged they continued to save as much as they could because they worried if they ever had to go to a home, they would never have enough.

Stan died at the age of 85 and Kit died in 2013 at the age of 94; neither stayed over two months in a care facility. Therefore, the lifetime of saving for something that never happened has allowed their daughters to honor their memory by establishing the Zirbel Family Scholarship. The \$500 scholarship was awarded for the first time to a 2015 graduate of Forest City High School at Senior Awards Night on May 13. "Our father really had a passion for helping young people. We've been able to do some things that have honored mom through her church, but a scholarship to help students achieve success is truly what our dad was about," Jill Zirbel Murray stated.

Stan served on the Fertile School Board for approximately ten years, most of the time as President, and was instrumental in the reorganization process. He then served on the Forest City School Board in 1971, '72, and '73. Serving on the school board, however, was only one way that Stan made a difference to young people. He served as a 4-H leader for 15 years, helped with school and community events and was a mentor for many young men in the community. "Quite often the Fertile school superintendent would call dad and ask if he had any work for a boy who needed to do some 'community service' or lived in town and just needed to be kept busier. A farm where there were always a million things to do was just the place.



Row One: Mr. Lyle Jefson, Mrs. Dorothy Stoll, Mr. Russell Lewis, Superintendent Downing. Row Two: Dr. Richard Hynes, Mr. Stanley Zirbel, Mr. Edward Knudtson, Mr. Lloyd Willig. Not pictured: Mr. Duane Peterson.



This past winter when Jill received the Alumni Dream Catcher she knew that establishing a scholarship in memory of their parents would be the perfect way to honor their father's memory, his passion and support of the education of young people. Jill commented, "People Dad helped would come back on numerous occasions and tell him what he did to help them." Karen continued, "This isn't my money or Jill's... it's from Kit and Stan, as sure as they are sitting across the table from you or me!"

as sure as they are sitting across the table from you or me!"

**Anthony Kalil - Class of 2000**  
**Performing at the Metropolitan Opera**  
 by Alice Lewellen



Anyone who ever heard Tony Kalil sing on the FCHS stage, will not be surprised to hear of his success with the Metropolitan Opera. Those of us who heard it will never forget his wonderful duet with Andy Meyer singing “Lily’s Eyes” from the musical The Secret Garden or hearing him hold a note for what seemed like forever while standing on a table in a production of “Fiddler on the Roof”.

Tony, who graduated in 2000, went on to attend Wartburg College and also sang there. Tony says that his path to becoming an opera singer was a little different than most of the opera singers he now works with. After a year and a half at Wartburg and not certain what he hoped to pursue in life, Tony moved to Des Moines where he worked at Half Price Books for a year and a half. He next moved to Chicago and opened his own commercial business. His next move was to Seattle, Washington, where he started working for Sherwin Williams Paint Company as a technical service representative.

In 2010, Tony was asked to sing at a wedding. He first declined saying that he had given up singing. After reluctantly agreeing to sing, Tony said he realized how much he loved singing and decided to find a voice teacher to take up singing as a hobby. The teacher Tony found was Erich Parch and when Tony first began working with him, Parch was “surprised I had this voice” as Tony says. Parch said he wanted to work with Tony for six months and then he would like to take him to New York so some people could hear him. These “people” were the Metropolitan Opera! At the time, Tony said he did not realize it would change the entire direction of his life. Within two years, he would leave Sherwin Williams and become an opera singer. It has been three years since Tony made that decision and he says he is very happy!

Tony, who is a tenor, joined the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and made his first Met appearance in Die Frau ohne Schatten and the Magic Flute. He sang the title role in Benvenuto Cellini in the MET and Julliard scenes program conducted by James Levene.

In the future, Tony will perform at the Met Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Opera and Santa Fe opera. He made his Alice Tully Hall debut in concert with the I Sing Beijing program, performed Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra and performed Lenske in Eugene, Oregon with Vaston Opera.



Tony says that growing up in Forest City taught him to stay humble and grounded. The education that he received and the community he lived in were very nurturing. His special high school memories stem from the work he did with Scott Bertelsen. Tony says Mr. Bertelsen taught him to “be himself and never be ashamed of who you are. He gave me the confidence to go on stage and let everything go! This is something that I look back on that helps me in the career I have chosen. Without his guidance and love for his craft, I may never have reached this place and for that I am very grateful”.

Tony has this advice to give graduating seniors. “Life is full of surprises. You never know where your path will lead you but you never know if you don’t follow it. Allow yourself to explore and open your mind to all experiences. Everything will be okay, I promise!”

Tony clearly followed his path and through a series of unexpected turns has a career that is to be envied.



Bob & Kathy Olson Family Scholarship  
 Beau Sorenson & Maddie Buffington, recipients  
 Bob Olson and Kathy Olson - donors



Nate Wicker Memorial Scholarship  
 Brittany Youngers, Recipient  
 Rose Marie Wicker, Glenda Keough - donors



Vera and Richard Hynes Scholarship  
 Lydia Schwartz  
 Vera and Richard Hynes - donors

## Nancy (Kingland) Sweetman - Class of 1962 Shares Her Story of Service, Education and Adventure! "Bringing the World Back Home"

Geography was my favorite subject at Forest City High School where I graduated in 1962. I grew up on a farm east of town with parents who took a family road trip most every summer. Perhaps these were early indicators that travel would be a major part of my life.

I was influenced by my Forest City school experience (K-12) and my family including my parents, Kennes and Alice Kingland, and my three brothers, Dave, Ron, and Marv. We were taught to get along with everyone, care about others, work hard, and not expect a lot of accolades. These are rural North Iowa values. My brothers credit themselves with teaching me everything I know!

After high school I attended Iowa State University and earned a degree in Home Economics/Child Development. At college I met my husband Chuck Sweetman who was from upstate New York.

We were married, then joined the U.S. Peace Corps, serving as volunteers in Panama from 1967 to 1969. As newlyweds we set up housekeeping in a mud house with a kerosene lamp as our only light source. (There was no electricity.) We cooked with a propane stove and an oil can oven. Our plumbing consisted of one faucet in the kitchen and a shower in the backyard next to the latrine. We shared these amenities with toads, cockroaches, and scorpions, so we inspected carefully prior to use. My job was to teach home economics skills to women throughout the area. I also started a kindergarten class in our village. After our years as Peace Corps Volunteers, we served as Peace Corps trainers/staff in Puerto Rico for a year. The first two goals of the Peace Corps are to help people in other countries and to promote a better understanding of Americans, and we felt we achieved these in a small way in our village of El Paraiso (Paradise) in Panama.



Returning to the United States, I taught elementary and middle school in Mason City, Iowa, for 15 years, then earned my Masters' Degree from Iowa State in Educational Administration and served as an elementary principal for 19 years. After retirement, I worked part-time for 10 years at Waldorf College, supervising student teachers in towns throughout northern Iowa. My career in education was rewarding and enjoyable.

Now, I volunteer at several area sites. My husband and I are both docents at the Frank Lloyd Wright Stockman House, workers at Music Man Square, and sometimes helpers at Heritage Park. I translate at parent teacher conferences for Spanish speaking families. I have provided training for various groups on understanding poverty and working with students and/or families who live in poverty.

As a result of our time with the Peace Corps, we both became fluent in Spanish, came to appreciate Latin culture, and fell in love with international travel. Peace Corps was a life-changing experience that has profoundly influenced our volunteer work, reading preferences, charitable giving, and travel choices.

To date my husband and I have traveled to all seven continents. The 55 countries we've visited include all the Spanish speaking countries of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Most of our travel is to under-developed or developing countries. We give many presentations every year to school and church groups and community organizations. These presentations fulfill the third Peace Corps goal of "bringing the world back home" or promoting an understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Our travels have been adventures. The most frightening experiences have been Haiti in 1970 when the "secret" police called us by name, Zambia in 1996 when thieves climbed onto our vehicle, and Venezuela in 2014 when we were advised to stay in our hotel room because of massive political demonstrations. We have eaten many strange foods including camel, alpaca, guinea pig, and grubs. Our favorite countries include Norway where my ancestors lived, Ecuador where we adopted our daughter, Peru with its Incan ruins and markets, Guatemala with its Mayan heritage, and, of course, Panama where we lived for nearly three years. We have returned to Panama to visit friends nine times. In a recent email one of our Panamanian friends wrote, "Panama es su segunda patria." (Panama is your second country.) We do feel like we have a second home country. Our world is bigger as a result of our Peace Corps service.

Travel is a learning experience. We have learned about the history, religions, values, and customs in many different parts of the world. As a result, we have become more accepting of different beliefs and perspectives. Chuck and I agree with the words of Mark Twain: "Travel is fatal to bigotry, prejudice, and narrow-mindedness."

## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans!

August 26-30

It was forty years ago on April 30, the last of our troops were pulled from the front lines and firebases of Vietnam. The withdrawal was the end of the 13-year war in which 58, 119 Americans were killed and 153,303 injured. Fifty-one of those killed were from nine counties in North Iowa. Currently, there are approximately 3400 Vietnam Vets in the nine-county area including Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Floyd, Hancock, Howard, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth Counties.

Riley Lewis is one of 25 members of the Operation LZ committee and shared how the welcome home event managed to come about. Riley has, for the past three years, interviewed several vets during Veterans' Week and of those 18 interviewed, 11 were Vietnam Vets. "There's one question I ask every Vietnam Veteran, Riley said, How were you welcomed home? Every one would pause, take a deep breath and say, 'We weren't welcomed home.'" With the 40th Anniversary approaching Riley, Jack Caputo, Mark Frakes and Dave Kingland set out to ask the Vietnam Vets what type of event they would like to see happen, something that would recognize their service. Each one indicated they wanted something where they could bring their families, children and grandchildren, perhaps experience a Huey/Cobra helicopter ride, hear the unforgettable sound of Chinook helicopter or stand quietly while reading the thousands of names on the Vietnam Wall. They wanted to bring their loved-ones and share, maybe for the first time, what it was like to serve in Vietnam.

"To host an event like this we knew we needed facilities. We approached Winnebago Industries, Heritage Park and the City of Forest City and we are thankful that we are able to utilize these facilities at no charge, for that we are truly grateful," said Riley. The committee has been meeting since February 2014 and it's exciting to see how everything is coming together for these Vets." Initially the welcome home was planned to honor the Vietnam Vets in the nine county area. However, as news of the event has traveled, Forest City will have the privilege of hosting Vietnam Vets from all over the Midwest. "To appropriately prepare for the number of people, we are really relying on everyone, Vets as well as others attending, to register on the Operation LZ website, [www.operationlz.com](http://www.operationlz.com)." When visiting the website, there is also a volunteer section for those who wish to volunteer at the event.

With Operation Landing Zone being a very special event our community looks forward to this summer, I felt it only appropriate to honor Vietnam Vets who are alumni and/or staff from Forest City High School. You will read stories from three Foss brothers, Darrell, Dale and Denis all who served in Vietnam as well as from Jerry Swenson, Forest City High School's Art teacher for 31 years. I am certain it's difficult to put into a few words an experience like war and I am learning that each Veteran most likely had a much different experience than the soldier next to him. Thank you to the men who willingly shared their stories. Thank you to all Veterans who serve and have served our country. Finally, a long-awaited welcome home to our Vietnam Veterans. This event is for you.



### Vietnam 1967-1968

by Julie DeVries

For many years, 31 to be exact, there was a friendly, creative, ambitious and somewhat quirky teacher who taught art classes and devoted as many years to creating fabulous sets for the high school musicals and plays. Jerry Swenson's classes were ones that were high on the request list for student schedules and everyone knew him as "Swens". Before joining the staff at FCHS in 1970, Swens served our country in Vietnam. Like many others who were drafted for that war, he silently carried a lot of those memories around with him.

Swens was drafted as soon as he finished college. "I finished on a Tuesday and received my draft notice on Wednesday," Jerry said. He had already signed a teaching contract for the upcoming school year so he was allowed to teach for that year using his last draft deferment. In 1967 he was sent to Ft. Polk, Louisiana for Basic Training, then to Ft. Ord, California for advanced Infantry Training and finally to Ft. Louis, Washington to a battalion that was preparing to go to Vietnam. "This gave us four extra months of training. This extra training with your squads, platoon, and company was a much better situation than being sent to Nam as a replacement."

Drafted into the Army Infantry, Jerry's impression was that many of the people in the Infantry had at least some college background. Regardless, basic training was really hard with a lot of physical training. "If your boots fit you would probably do okay. Depending on the sergeant, it could be pretty brutal. I learned to not stand out in any way, just blend in and be a number. You didn't want your sergeant to know your name," Jerry remembers.

They were first sent to the jungle areas south and west of Saigon area and then north of Saigon in what was called the rocket belt, but “we never really knew where we were,” Jerry said. They traveled by helicopter and made many combat assaults. “Combat assault is very complicated and the weak point is always landing because everything is so disorganized until you get your bearings.” Jerry ended up being infused into the 101st Airborne and was stationed in a forward firebase near Hue.

365 days was a tour of duty, “the longest year of my life,” Swens said quietly. “It dragged on and on.” While in the field they only saw the 100 people in the platoon. They would work seven days a week, on call 24/7 and really nothing to distinguish one day from the other, hot, sweaty and always mosquitos. During the rainy season it would drizzle for 2-3 days so the helicopters wouldn’t bring food or rations. “Out in the field we would get wet because we only had ponchos. They were made of rubber so we either got wet from the rain or soaked underneath from sweat. We could put four ponchos together and make a hooch (a four man tent).” They were always thirsty and always tired. The only time they could get a shower was if it rained hard enough. “What we were wearing is all we had and every two or three weeks we would get a new set of clothes. After two or three days our clothes felt like leather from sweat and when the hair was growing through our socks we knew we hadn’t taken them off for awhile.” When on patrol, they typically walked through the rice patties to avoid the booby-trapped dikes. “Our feet were always wet.”



Jerry recalls, “Once I was infused out of the 199th Light Infantry I was never in a cohesive company and that created problems because we weren’t looked upon as a team nor did we have the trust that someone would be looking out for our backsides. No one wanted to be there and even though we hated the Army, we all had a job to do and that was the only way we would make it through. Lots of people got into drugs and marijuana, both were everywhere with easy access.” Swens remembers. “The military didn’t enforce the rules unless you would do something stupid. Every morning the Vietnamese would show up and sell lots of things, vegetables, their daughters and of course, marijuana.” He noticed that on the morning the majority of the company would be gone on patrol, the Viet Vietnamese wouldn’t show up. “We never knew about a combat assault until the night before, but the Viet Vietnamese would know we were moving out. That was a bit concerning.”



Even though no one from his original platoon was lost and overall he doesn’t feel like he had many horrible experiences Jerry still came back with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and it took a long time to recover. He had been able to save quite a bit of money, only keeping \$20 each paycheck and sending the rest home, so he decided to take a year and went to Israel to work on a kibbutz (collective farm). “The people were very interested in the Army and I was able to talk about my experiences. I worked in a vineyard alongside the “old timers” and they all had been in WWII. They talked to me about how to get through,” said Swens.

When he returned to the United States, everyone treated him like he was a leper. No one would talk to him, especially the older people and everything was so hostile. “No one wanted to hear about where I had been or what I had done. My uncle called me a liar when I told him what I’d been through. The American Legion wouldn’t even accept Vietnam Vets for a long

time,” he said. The negativity went on for 20 years until the Gulf War and people started realizing we can’t treat our Vets like that.

Jerry is looking forward to attending Operation LZ and thinks it will be interesting to see the various reactions from people to the celebration. He concludes, “It is tricky when working with Vietnam Vets as everyone who served in that war had a different experience.” Operation LZ – a long overdue Welcome Home!

#### **CLASS OF 1965 - 50TH YEAR REUNION**

Class of 1965 is excited to celebrate its 50th year class reunion the weekend of July 16-19, 2015. Social and dinner will be at 5 pm on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at Salvason Hall at Waldorf College. Send ideas for the remainder of the weekend to Facebook friends, Cindy Charlson Monroe or LeRoy Kester or Facebook page, Fchs-sixtyfive Forest City. We are looking forward to a great weekend.

#### **CLASS OF 1955 - 60TH YEAR REUNION**

Class members will receive a letter  
Friday, September 18, 2015  
1:00 PM Tour of Winnebago Industries  
3:30 PM Winery Tour

Saturday, Sept. 19th  
11:00 a.m. Luncheon Cruise Lady of the Lake, CL  
Reunion Banquet at River Oaks, Forest City  
5:30 Social Hour  
6:30 Banquet and Program

Sunday, Seept. 20th  
Hertiage Park of North Iowa  
Steam Threshing Festival  
(No organized group activities)

A fantastic event opportunity when planning your class reunion weekend in Forest City! The Mansion Museum welcomes any and all tours and provides an interesting look at the 1900s with memorabilia galore! Contact Riley Lewis for more info, 641-581-3283.

## Dale Foss Vietnam 1964-1965



I'm Dale Foss, a 1969 graduate of Forest City High School. I grew up in Leland with an identical twin brother, Denis. Our next oldest brother, Darrell, is a 1961 graduate and served in Vietnam with the Army in 1964 - 65. Vietnam was more than just a top news story to the Foss family. At that time, I thought the war would be over soon with America's superior military and fire power leading the way. Boy was I wrong. The war was still going on in June of 1969 when we graduated.

I enlisted for three years into the U. S. Army in order to have the GI Bill available to pay for college. I enlisted on the buddy plan with another 1969 graduate of FCCHS. There were also 2 other graduates of FCCHS enlisting on the buddy plan, one was a 1968 graduate, the other a 1969 graduate. The four of us went to Des Moines to take our physicals and I was the only one that passed. So much for the buddy plan. Two of the other three did end up in the Army and the third person in the Navy.

On January 26, 1970, I was inducted into the Army at Des Moines, IA. I had enlisted for 3 years to be a mechanic in the Army. I was sent to Ft. Lewis, WA for basic training. While in basic training, I had learned Bob Davis, a 1967 FCCHS graduate, had been killed in Vietnam. Bob was a terrific guy and I was very saddened by this news. At some point, I was called into the CO's office and told I had scored well enough on my tests that I could go to West Point. After discussing the enlistment requirements, I decided to pass because I knew I didn't want to spend a minimum of 10 years in the Army. Upon graduation, I was told the mechanic school was full and I was sent to the armor reconnaissance school in Ft. Knox, KY. The last mail call I received a letter which I didn't read until I got to Ft. Knox. It was from a girl named Bonnie from Kenai, Alaska. I looked at the envelope thinking I had received someone else's letter. It was addressed to Dale Foss, C-5-1, Ft Lewis, WA. I wrote her and said I wasn't sure how she got my name but I didn't know any girl from Alaska. She wrote back saying we had dated and how could I not remember her. It turns out there was another Dale Foss in training company C-5-2 and she had put C-5-1, my training company. We exchanged a few letters while I was in Vietnam but lost touch. I wish I could remember her last name and try to find her on Facebook.

Armor reconnaissance school consisted of lots of map reading courses, recon training, survival training, weapons instruction with many different types of weapons including track mounted machine guns, several different automatic rifles and pistols. While here, I learned that a friend, Vernon Okland, from Lake Mills had also been killed in Vietnam. Vernon's parents Luther and Ruby were life long friends of my mother.

After a 30 day leave, I was sent to South Vietnam on July 8, 1970. My first unit assignment was with Charlie Troop, 2/1 Cav, 1st Field Forces at Song Mao. This unit had just returned from the Cambodian invasion and most of the armored personnel carriers and tanks were inoperable. I was issued a ruck sack. For all our missions we were choppered out to an area of operations and conducted 8 man recon patrols and set up ambushes from 3 to 7 days at a time. I earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge while with this unit. We were accompanied by "Chieu Hoi" scouts who were Viet Cong defectors until we discovered a booby trap in our ammo dump. After that all South Vietnamese personnel were banned from our base camp. We were also accompanied by a Marine Forward Observer at times which enabled us to call in fire missions from ships. The "tankers", MOS 11E, told the CO they weren't trained for infantry or recon work. The CO solved that problem by sending all of them to Ranger school in Nha Trang for 2 weeks. My understanding from them was all they did was run for 2 weeks. A tanker from Des Moines named Wiley decided now that he was a ranger he should carry the M60 machine gun on his first time out. When he jumped off the chopper, he caught the front sight under his chin and cut it wide open. He was on the next chopper back and I took back the machine gun. Of course he was known as "Ranger Wiley" after that. My platoon leader was 1st Lt. Andrew Bacevich. He was a West Pointer and a great officer. I googled him about a year ago and found out he's a professor at Boston College and has written several books. I emailed him and told him he was my first platoon leader in Vietnam. He said he didn't remember me but sent me one of his books.

After 3 months, this unit was sent home and I was reassigned to Charlie Company, 2/8 Mechanized Infantry, 4th Division at An Khe. I was only on one 2 week mission while with this unit. The highlight of that mission was being covered in ants while busting jungle on an armored personnel carrier. The rest of the time was spent pulling guard duty around the chopper pad which had been attacked by sappers previously. I was on guard duty one night with a guy who was on his 3rd tour. He started having flashbacks, said there were sappers in the wire and wanted to fire on them. Right across the road was an artillery unit and I knew firing in that direction could result in friendly casualties. I talked him into low crawling with me to the bunker next to us. We called the medics and he was taken away never to be seen again.

After just over 1 month, this unit was also sent home and I was reassigned to Headquarters Troop, Recon platoon, 3/5 Cav, 9th Div at Dong Ha. The recon platoon was known as the "Birddogs". We would recon "the back yard" southwest of Dong Ha as far west as the "Rock-pile" until Operation Dewey Canyon II started.

Operation Dewey Canyon II started on Jan. 30, 1971 which was the US support of Lam Son 719, the invasion of Laos by the South Vietnamese Army. The 3/5 Cav was to provide a blocking force on the Laotian border west of Khe Sanh in the event North Vietnamese troops tried to enter South Vietnam. I was injured on March 20, 1971 in Khe Sanh in a freak accident. My medical care started at an aid station in Khe Sanh with stops at hospitals in Quang Tri, Da Nang and eventually ending up at a hospital in Okinawa.

In the hospital in Quang Tri, the doctors decided there was too much risk of infection and decided to send me to Da Nang. There was a wounded North Vietnamese soldier in the same ward. He had a 24 hour MP guard on him not only to keep him from escaping but to keep him safe from soldiers in the ward. The look in his eyes was of sheer terror.

While in the hospital in Da Nang my old weapons instructor, SFC Thompson, from Ft. Knox showed up and said I had been awarded the Purple Heart. I told him I didn't deserve it because I wasn't wounded in combat. I said if I took it, it would diminish the value of those who deserved it like the guys with severe wounds, missing arms and legs, etc. that I had seen in the 2 different hospitals I had been in. He got angry at me, called me an ungrateful bastard and walked away. In the bed next to me was an Australian pilot who had been shot down and rescued by Americans. Across the aisle was his copilot. The Aussies didn't know they had been rescued yet and the Aussie radio was still saying they were missing.



While in the hospital in Okinawa, I was still hoping to be patched up and sent back to my unit. The doctor said no, he was recommending I be sent stateside. I experienced some survivor guilt wondering how the "Birddogs" would get along without me. The American Legion Post on Okinawa gave all hospitalized veterans honorary membership to their post. Since I was ambulatory, I would take one or two wheel chair patients in a cab to the Legion. We were treated well and didn't have to worry about buying drinks.

I was discharged from the Okinawa hospital and sent home for 30 days leave in June, 1971. On July 8, 1971, I reported to Ft. Riley, KS and was assigned to Bravo Troop, 1/4 Cav, 1st Division where I remained until my honorable discharge on January 25, 1973 with the rank of SGT, E-5. The highlight of this assignment was taking part in a Reforger exercise for 6 weeks in Germany. We would drive around the country and camp outside of small towns. At night, we would go into town and drink with the locals. I received a letter of commendation for exemplary performance while in Germany.

One of the other 1969 graduates that was going to enlist with the 1968 graduate ended up being drafted into the Army. One day I received a call from him saying he was at the Ft. Riley reception station. He said he was supposed to go to Vietnam but his orders changed and he was sent to Ft. Riley. He said he was a clerk and I told him my unit was looking for one. I talked to my First Sergeant and got him assigned as our company clerk. After a few months as our company clerk, he was injured in a motorcycle accident while in Salinas, KS one weekend and received a medical discharge.

Towards the end of my enlistment, I received a call from my last commanding officer in Vietnam. He was now in charge of the 1st Divisions "Unit of Choice" program. He asked me if I'd like a 3 month temporary duty assignment at the Mason City Army Recruiting Station. I wouldn't have to recruit anyone just let them know if they enlisted, they could choose the 1st Division at Ft. Riley as their assignment. I rode around with the recruiters visiting schools or potential recruit's homes. After work, we would visit local VFW's or Legions and drink with the veterans. I also received a letter of commendation for that duty.

I was very lucky that I had stateside duty upon my return from Vietnam. The 1.5 years in Ft. Riley gave me time to decompress from my Vietnam experience. A lot of GI's went from battle one day to walking down main street the next. I have to admit it took me a couple of years to stop looking for trip wires and boobytraps when walking through the woods or even a field of grass.

It's important we don't forget our brothers in arms who gave their all. As far as I know, there are 4 Forest City graduates who died in Vietnam those being: Mike Skogerboe, class of 1962, Donald Lammers, class of 1962, Paul Carson, class of 1964 and Bob Davis, class of 1967.

I did use the GI Bill to go to college at Mankato State University where I earned a BS degree in Sociology/Corrections and later went to Control Data Institute for computer programming. I worked for 4 years as a counselor for boys in a group home before changing careers. I retired in February 2013 at 62 after a 30 year computer programming career with Supervalu.

My twin brother, Denis, and I have been involved in VA sponsored twin studies regarding PTSD research with 3 trips to Boston and 1 to Atlanta over the last several years. After being poked, prodded and interviewed by several psychologists and psychiatrists, I'm glad to report a clean bill of mental and emotional health. Life is good.

## Darrell Foss Vietnam 1965 - 1966

Following graduation from Forest City - Leland High School, Class of 1961, I attended Dunwoody Industrial Institute and graduated with a degree in Machine Shop. After graduating from Dunwoody, I worked approximately two years until I was drafted into the U.S. Army in Dec. 1964, at Des Moines, IA. After eight weeks of basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and six months of advanced infantry training at Fort Rucker, AL, as an Aircraft Mechanic, I was shipped to the 120th Aviation Company known as the Deans of Aviation at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon, Vietnam. The company was known as the Deans of Aviation as it was the first Airmobile Light Company flying CH 21 Helicopters in Vietnam in the early 60's.



assault mission on January 1, 1966, with the 101 Airborne Division. Needless to say, that put a real crimp in celebrating the New Year.

For the most part, it was an interesting year in my life. While there could be hours of boredom doing supply missions, it was interspersed with utter terror flying combat assault missions into a hot Landing Zone (LZ).

Upon returning to the United States, I met and married my lovely wife and have one daughter. I ultimately returned to school and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

I also received my Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. In addition to working as a CPA, I taught accounting in the Graduate Program at the U. of St. Thomas in St Paul, MN, as an Adjunct Instructor for 13 years. I am currently retired. Spending time with our daughter in Baltimore, volunteering at the Minnesota Zoo, painting landscapes, wood carving, bicycling, canoeing wild places, traveling both domestically and internationally and spending time at our lake home occupies my time.



After two months of working in an aircraft maintenance hanger, as an aircraft mechanic, I was promoted to Crew Chief in the Snoopy Platoon. I became Crew Chief to aircraft tail number 630 which was an UH-1B known as a Huey. In our platoon, all the aircraft were named after the cartoon characters from the Peanuts Comic Strip. Lucy was proudly painted on the pilot and copilot doors. Charles Schultz gave us permission to put the characters on our helicopters. Some original artwork was done by Charles Schultz in the Company Headquarters. I remember being very nervous when I officially signed my name to take possession of the aircraft. As Crew Chief, I was responsible for a \$250,000 (in 1965 that was a lot of money) aircraft.

Our primary mission was support of Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), which included evacuating the U.S. Embassy in Saigon should it come under attack.

Our mission also included flying VIP's around South Vietnam. The most notable of these were Vice President Humphrey, General Westmoreland, numerous entertainers with the USO and news reporters from many of the major networks.

When not engaged in our primary mission we were engaged in flying supply missions to US Army units, including Special Forces camps throughout South Vietnam. In addition, we were flying combat assault missions taking infantry personnel into battle with the enemy. I remember having to fly a combat



### Vietnam War History

<http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/vietnam-war-history>

*The Vietnam War was a long, costly armed conflict that pitted the communist regime of North Vietnam and its southern allies, known as the Viet Cong, against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The war began in 1954 (though conflict in the region stretched back to the mid-1940s), after the rise to power of Ho Chi Minh and his communist Viet Minh party in North Vietnam, and continued against the backdrop of an intense Cold War between two global superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including 58,000 Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War; more than half were Vietnamese civilians. By 1969, at the peak of U.S. involvement in the war, more than 500,000 U.S. military personnel were involved in the Vietnam conflict. Growing opposition to the war in the United States led to bitter divisions among Americans, both before and after President Richard Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973. In 1975, communist forces seized control of Saigon, ending the Vietnam War, and the country was unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the following year.*



**Denis Foss**  
**Vietnam 1971-1972**

My brothers and I grew up in Leland and graduated from FCHS. Dale enlisted into the Army and I volunteered for the draft so that I would only be committed to the Army for two years. I entered the Army on Feb. 25, 1971 did basic training and AIT at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. I served in Vietnam from August 1971 to April 1972. As I was sitting in the replacement company waiting to be processed to a unit a guy told me to follow him. As we turned around a corner, he started shaking my hand like an old friend and asked if I remembered him, "Joe Hubbell from Ft. Lewis" he said. I sort of laughed because knowing Dale had been at Ft. Lewis I knew he thought I was him. After explaining to him that I had a twin brother he said "I will get you into a good company." As a result I was assigned to Headquarters Company, 68th Medical Group at Long Binh. As the United States was winding down our commitment in Vietnam I was offered an early out in April of 1972 which included getting out of the Army. This was an opportunity that I could not pass up.

During my time with the 68th Medical Group I was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

One story I can share about my time in Vietnam was the time I was in Saigon on a pass with a couple buddies. One of them asked me if I was supposed to be back for guard duty that night. Having all the fun we were having the time sort of got away from me. One of our subordinate units, 3rd Field Hospital was in Saigon, so over there we go and I called back to my unit from their communication center to have them round up a guy to cover for me. Eddie Menders, was the person in the radio bunker back at my unit. He said go to the helipad and get on the next chopper to land and they will bring you back. Sure enough a chopper from the 1st Air Cav came and the pilot said they were there for a VIP mission code named Foss. I said that was me and off we went to my unit. I made guard duty, but the next day the CO did express his displeasure with the arrangements that were made to get me back. He was a good CO and that was all that happened.

I hope all the Vietnam veterans enjoy the events planned for the weekend and I would like to thank all the folks for all the hard work and their efforts putting this event together.

**Leo Durant**  
**Vietnam 1968**  
by Julie DeVries



Leo Durant, Class of 1962, attended Iowa State University after graduating from Forest City High School. Between his junior and senior year, Leo attended a 10-week Platoon Leaders Course and graduated from ISU as a Second Lieutenant.

After graduating from Iowa State, Leo went to Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia to Officer Training School, TBS, and graduated in December 1967. The next step was to learn an area to specialize in and was sent to Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Typically all Marines are sent to California for armor training. However, Leo was in the top of his class and was selected for armor training school with focus on how to operate tanks. "I couldn't believe that Ted Overlie happened to be at armor training school in Kentucky at the same time. Ted was in the Army," said Leo.

In May, 1968, Leo was sent to Vietnam and was responsible for running a platoon of ten Amtracks. These vehicles were used to make the water assaults/beach landings in Cua Viet, at the mouth of the Dong Ha River just a few miles below the DMZ.

Leo was then transferred to an infantry platoon at Khe Sanh, an area where one of the biggest battles of the Vietnam War took place. He was assigned to a React Platoon. Their job was to always be on alert and ready to assist other platoons or companies that were in trouble or under attack. They would get a radio call for help and immediately be flown out to the battles to assist.

During his assignment to the React Platoon, Durant learned of his promotion to sergeant and knew he would be leaving that area soon. That day, on Hill 689, Leo and his platoon sergeants were all gathered around in a circle talking when a mortar round landed right in the middle of them, killing 5 men, wounding 17 others and sent Leo to the hospital for over a year. He was so severely injured over his entire body that he spent from May 1968-July 1969 in the hospital at the Great Lakes Naval Base just outside of Chicago. Leo Durant was the first Forest City man injured in Vietnam.

In August 1969, Leo retired from the Marines and came back to Forest City. It was also around this time he found out his good friend from high school, Don Lammers, had been killed when his helicopter was shot down. After spending ten weeks in Europe with a friend he met in the hospital, Leo moved to Las Vegas where he has lived since. Because of his injuries he needed to be someplace warm and dry and near a military hospital, Las Vegas is home. "I didn't have the bad experience coming back to the States as many others did since I had spent so much time in the hospital", said Leo, "I am looking forward to Operation LZ and hope to talk another Vet from Forest City into coming with me."

# Senior Awards Night Scholarships

- \$250 Denny Lovick Mem. Scholarship - Melissa Reisetter  
 \$1000 Elise Marie Johnson Scholarship - Lydia Schwartz,  
 Jordan True and Jake Parks  
 \$360 Russ Piehl Memorial Scholarship\* - Jane Walrod  
 \$1000 Raymond Stark Memorial Scholarship - Micah Bang  
 and Rachel Nettleton  
 \$500 Larry W. Lovick Scholarship - Justin Bruns  
 \$500 Mike & Jean O'Rourke Appreciation Scholarship -  
 Jane Warod  
 \$1200 Paul Carson Memorial Scholarship - Steven Vaughan  
 \$500 Ron & Hope Lichtsinn Scholarship - Tanner Thompson  
 \$1000 (18) Winnebago Industries Foundation Scholarships -  
 Bailey Adams, Megan Balsley, Angela Book, Erich Erdman,  
 Ethan Erdman, Natalie Formanek, Hannah Hamilton,  
 Autumn Karalius, Morgan Kingston, Mitch Krein,  
 Ethan Larson, Levi Rogeness, William Rossmiller,  
 Brandon Sichanthonthip, Tanner Smoley, Kyra Sorenson,  
 Steven Vaughan, Brittany Youngers  
 \$300 Benson/Torkelson Memorial Scholarship - Bailey Adams  
 \$300 LeDonna R. Durant Scholarship - Amanda Gross  
 \$1000 HMR Scholarship - Tyler Rasmussen  
 \$1200 Frakes Family Scholarship - Jane Walrod  
 \$300 Steve & Nancy Olson Family Scholarship - Melissa Reisetter  
 \$300 Dave Draheim Memorial Scholarship - Megan Balsley  
 \$650 Clifford & Merna Torkelson Scholarship - Zarren Egesdal  
 \$4500 Don & Edell Westerberg "Make Something of Yourself  
 Memorial Scholarship - Tanner Thompson  
 \$1650 Nelson/Strakes Family Scholarship - Hannah Rosacker  
 \$500 FC Breakfast Lions Denny Lovick Memorial Scholarship  
 - Jordan True  
 \$500 Allan Gilbertson Memorial Scholarship/Gilby Award -  
 Lydia Schwartz  
 \$500 Forest City Farmer's Coop Scholarships -  
 Bailey Adams, Eric Muench  
 \$200 Bill's Family Foods Scholarships - Tyler Doss,  
 Amanda Gross, Melissa Reisetter  
 \$250 Masonic Lodge Scholarship - Tanner Thompson  
 \$500 DeKalb Ag Accomplishment Award - Eric Muench  
 \$500 Richard Wubben Titan Pro Scholarship - Tyler Rasmussen  
 \$500 Prairie Brand Seed Scholarship - Zarren Egesdal  
 \$500 Priebe Seed Sales Syngenta Scholarship - Steven Vaughan  
 \$2,000 National FFA Deere Scholarship - Justin Bruns  
 \$1,000 RAM FFA Scholarship - Austin Lewis  
 \$150 Frank Sinnard Memorial Scholarship - Adam Eden  
 \$300 Chasing the Sun Memorial Scholarship - Jake Parks  
 \$300 P.E.O. Scholarship - Angela Haugen  
 \$450 Aberg Family Scholarship - Rachel Koch  
 \$500 American Legion School Award & Scholarship -  
 Tanner Thompson  
 \$1000 Forest City YMCA Scholarship in Memory of  
 Merrill G. Oleson - Erich Erdman  
 \$300 KIOW Scholarship - Zarren Egesdal  
 \$350 Kirby Thompson Memorial Scholarship - Mitch Krein  
 \$500 Nyhus Family Ag Enrichment Scholarship - Bailey Adams  
 \$500 Nyhus Family Scholarship - Hannah Rosacker  
 \$600 Nate Wicker Memorial Scholarship - Brittany Youngers  
 \$300 Am. Bar Association Citizenship Award - Austin Lewis  
 \$500 Rotary Waldorf Scholarship - Nikki Hensley,  
 Rachel Nettleton  
 \$500 Farm & City Insurance Services Scholarship -  
 Maddie Buffington  
 \$730 Class of 1949 - Ethan Erdman  
 \$600 Kimberly Hope Jordal Memorial Scholarship -  
 Amanda Wilson  
 \$900 P.C. Olson Memorial Scholarship - Carter Henken  
 \$1000 Vera & Richard Hynes Scholarship - Lydia Schwartz  
 Four-Year, Full Tuition Waldorf Chantell Cooley Leadership  
 Scholarship for Women - Natalie Formanek, Angela Book,  
 Brittany Youngers, Autumn Karalius  
 \$2500 Bob & Kathy Olson Family Scholarship - Beau Sorenson,  
 Maddie Buffington  
 \$300 Carl & Sandy Wagner Scholarship - Zarren Egesdal  
 \$1500 FCHS Engineering Alumni Scholarship -  
 William Rossmiller  
 \$1000 Roger Schaefer Memorial Scholarship - Steven Vaughan  
 \$500 Reece Family Scholarship - Jane Walrod  
 \$600 Tom & Tammy Larson Family Scholarship -  
 Ethan Segerstrom  
 \$500 Zirbel Family Scholarship - Dan Happel  
 \$750 Business & Marketing Scholarship - Autumn Busta  
 \$450 Carole Anderson Memorial Scholarship - Lydia Schwartz  
 \$300 Sherman H. Friensenborg Memorial Trade Scholarship -  
 Tyler Rasmussen  
 \$300 Randy & Tracy Broesder Family Scholarship -  
 Ethan Larson, Megan Balsley  
 \$250 Barbara Lorenzen Cromwell Memorial Scholarship -  
 Carter Henken  
 \$5000 Waldon Groves Scholarship - Rachel Koch, Tara Doughty  
 \$500 Make a Difference Scholarship - Tanner Smoley  
 \$500 NIACC Area 2 Scholarship - Hannah Hamilton  
 \$1,000 Iowa Bankers Association Student Athlete Achievement  
 Scholarship - Jake Parks  
 \$100 Class of '88 Scholarship - Maddie Buffington  
 \$250 High School Student Council Leadership - Kyra Sorenson  
 \$500 Eugene Morris Evening Lions Scholarship - Micah Bang  
 \$300 Richard Putz Memorial Scholarship - Hannah Rosacker  
 \$500 Academic/Athletic/Arts Scholarship - Dan Happel  
 \$500 College Athlete Educator Scholarship - Carter Henken  
 \$300 TSB Bank Scholarship - Steven Vaughan  
 \$300 Linda Lunning Memorial Scholarship - Kyra Sorenson  
 \$500 Doug Book Memorial Scholarship - Tyler Prescott  
 \$1000 Dennis K. Branstad Scholarship - Ethan Segerstrom  
 \$1000 Rudolph W. Branstad Scholarship - Isaiah Loeschen  
 \$1000 E.E. Branstad Scholarship - Justin Kuhn  
 \$350 Dave Draheim Memorial Scholarship - Megan Balsley  
 \$300 Lee & Linda Hinkley Scholarship - Levi Rogeness  
 \$2,500 Willig Family Scholarship - Amanda Gross  
 \$150 Miller Family Youth Leadership Scholarship -  
 Ethan Erdman, Carter Henken  
 \$300 Middle School Scholarship - Hannah Rosacker  
 \$300 Joyful Spirit Scholarship - Carter Henken  
 \$350 Get On The Bus Scholarships - Austin Lewis,  
 Jimmy Blankenship, Hannah May, McKenzie Owen,  
 Adam Eden

## Senior Awards Night Scholarships continued

3-year Half Tuition, 1-year Full Tuition - Bill C. Fox  
 Engineering Scholarship - Justin Kuhn  
 Four-Year, Full Tuition Ray & Joan Beebe  
 Waldorf Scholarship - Jimmy Blankenship  
 \$100 Iowa High School Bowling Federation - Tyler Doss  
 \$500 Five Star Coop Scholarship - Justin Bruns  
 \$500 Heartland Power Scholarship - Autumn Busta  
 \$500 Hanlontown Community Club Community  
 Service Scholarship - Kyra Sorenson  
 \$1000 Iowa State Association of Counties - Maddie Buffington  
 Clarence Hawkes Scholarships - \$4000 Bailey Adams, Autumn  
 Busta, Rachel Koch, Amanda Wilson \$2000 Ethan Segerstrom  
 \$7674.04 Worth County Development - Jeff Anderson, Micah Bang,  
 Angela Book, Justin Bruns, Clay Byom, Tara Doughty, Morgan  
 Kingston, Rachel Nettleton, Tyler Prescott, Tyler Rasmussen,  
 Kyra Sorenson  
 \$10000 Raymond & Joan Beebe Family Scholarship -  
 Jake Parks, Amanda Wilson, Micah Bang  
 \$1000 Brooker Cup Award & Scholarship - Erich Erdman  
 Four-Year, Full-Tuition, Full Room and Board  
 Prewitt Scholarship - Bailey Adams  
 \$300 Principal's Leadership Award - Rachel Koch

## Forest City Education Foundation Awards \$1000 plus an additional \$250 if attending NIACC or \$500 if attending Waldorf College.

Bailey Adams	Natalie Formanek
Emily Aitchison	Amanda Gross
Jeffrey Anderson	Hannah Hamilton
Megan Balsley	Daniel Happel
Micah Bang	Angela Haugen
James Blankenship	Carter Henken
Angela Book	Nikki Hensley
Justin Bruns	Autumn Karalius
Maddie Buffington	Morgan Kingston
Autumn Busta	Rachel Koch
Clay Byom	Kayla Kracht
Kannan Centeno	Mitch Krein
Brandon Domer	Justin Kuhn
Tyler Doss	Ehtan Larson
Tara Doughty	Austin Lewis
Adam Eden	Brett Lindberg
Zarren Egesdal	Isaiah Loeschen
Erich Erdman	Hannah May
Ethan Erdman	Devin Meier
	Eric Muench
	Rachel Nettleton
	Molly Oulman
	McKenzie Owen
	Jake Parks
	Tyler Prescott
	Tyler Rasmussen
	Melissa Reisetter
	Levi Rogeness
	Hannah Rosacker
	William Rossmiller
	Cody Schutjer
	Lydia Schwartz
	Ethan Segerstrom
	Brandon Sichanthongthip
	Tanner Smoley
	Dominic Tindall
	Steven Vaughan
	Jane Walrod
	Amanda Wilson
	Brittany Youngers

## Foundation Academic Awards *Commitment to Excellence Awards*

**\$4000 Level**  
 Bailey Adams  
 Micah Bang  
 Tara Doughty  
 Rachel Koch  
 Jake Parks  
 Kyra Sorenson  
 Jane Walrod  
 Amanda Wilson

**\$3000 Level**  
 Madeline Buffington  
 Erich Erdman  
 Beau Sorenson  
 Tanner Thompson

**\$2500 Level**  
 Autumn Busta  
 Nikki Hensley  
 Morgan Kingston  
 Justin Kuhn

**\$2000 Platinum**  
 Ethan Erdman  
 Melissa Reisetter  
 Hannah Rosacker  
 Tanner Smoley

**\$1500 Platinum**  
 Carter Henken  
 Austin Lewis  
 Eric Muench  
 Rachel Nettleton

**\$1000 Gold**  
 Natalie Formanek  
 Hannah Hamilton  
 Daniel Happel

**\$800 Gold**  
 James Blankenship  
 Isaiah Loeschen  
 Hannah May  
 Tyler Prescott  
 William Rossmiller  
 Lydia Schwartz  
 Jordan True

**\$800 Gold**  
 James Blankenship  
 Isaiah Loeschen  
 Hannah May  
 Tyler Prescott  
 William Rossmiller  
 Lydia Schwartz  
 Jordan True

**\$600 Silver**  
 Angela Book  
 Adam Eden  
 Amanda Gross  
 Ethan Larson  
 McKenzie Owen  
 Ethan Segerstrom  
 Brandon Sichanthongthip  
 Steven Vaughan  
 Brittany Youngers

**\$400 Silver**  
 Justin Bruns  
 Tyler Doss  
 Angela Haugen  
 Autumn Karalius  
 Mitch Krein  
 Levi Rogeness

**\$300 Bronze**  
 Jeffrey Andersen  
 Zarren Egesdal  
 Kayla Kracht  
 Dominic Tindall

**\$250 Bronze**  
 Megan Balsley  
 Tyler Rasmussen

## Class of 2015



Forest City Education Foundation  
PO Box 270  
Forest City, IA 50436

The Forest City Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender equity, socio-economic status, or disability in its educational programs, services or employment practices. Students, parents of students, applicants for employment and employees of the Forest City Community Schools shall have the right to file a formal complaint alleging non-compliance with equity regulations.

Inquiries concerning application of this statement should be addressed to:  
Dave Cunningham, Equity Coordinator, 1405 West I Street, Forest City, Iowa 50436, Telephone (641) 585-2670 or  
Zach Dillavou, Equity Coordinator, 216 West School Street, Forest City, Iowa 50436, Telephone (641) 585-4772.

### ***Give to Forest City Education Foundation!***

*Consider making a gift to Forest City Education Foundation. By donating you are contributing to scholarship and educational opportunities provided to Forest City students.*

There are several ways you can donate!

#### ***Fund a scholarship***

A minimum of \$300 per year will fund a scholarship. You can name this scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one. The scholarship will be awarded Senior Awards Night in May.

The donor will be invited to present the award.

#### ***Donate to Forest City Education Foundation's General Fund***

This helps to fund publications, alumni events, HOBY Leadership Conference, Academic Banquet and John Baylor ACT Prep.

#### ***Endow a Scholarship***

We ask the minimum to endow a scholarship of \$20,000 (to be paid within 5 years). You can name this scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one. The scholarship will be awarded Senior Awards Night in May. The donor will be invited to present the award. This will ensure a scholarship for years to come.

#### ***Other Ways to Give***

Planned Giving\*\*\*\*Annual Gifts\*\*\*\*Bequests\*\*\*\*Real or Personal Property\*\*\*\*Trusts

Reunions & Groups\*\*\*\*Securities\*\*\*\*Honorary & Memorial\*\*\*\*Testamentary

Gifts-cash\*\*\*\*Life Insurance Agreement

Checks can be sent to:

Forest City Education Foundation

PO Box 270

Forest City, IA 50436

[www.forestcityeducation.org](http://www.forestcityeducation.org)

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***Would you like to start a scholarship in your family's name or in memory or honor of someone you love? It's very easy! Contact Julie DeVries at Forest City Education Foundation to set it up: 641.585.2323. We ask that your scholarship is a minimum of \$300. Payments can be made over time.***