

**BHS Alumni Association Foundation, Inc.** 9453 Stone School Rd. **Omro, WI 54963** 

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You're Invited to the **Annual Alumni Banquet!** \*Saturday, May 24 \*Berlin High School \*Doors open at 4 p.m. \*Dinner at 5 p.m. Featuring a message from the 25 and 50-year classes! b Tickets available April 1- May 20 \$18 tickets are available at Field's Card and Gift Shop, First National Bank of Berlin or by mailing payment to: **BHS** Alumni Association P.O. Box 267 Berlin, WI 54923

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Berlin High School Alumni Association - "The Oldest in the State"

By Melanie Haedt, 2015

1989 graduate of Berlin, Tricia Polakowski (Kollat), is the 25-year speaker for the alumni banquet this May. Her topics are encouragement and life lessons.

"This applies to my life with maintaining a positive attitude and goals" Polakowski said. "I have learned how to be strong, how to stand up for myself and to make everyone I meet feel like they are someone important by listening to them attentively."

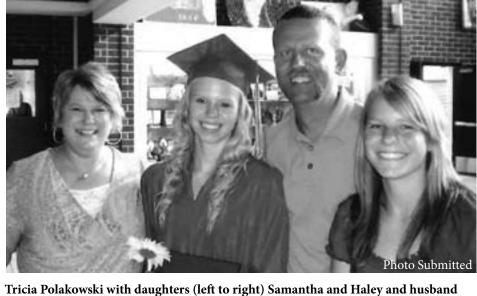
Polakowski believes that setting goals has helped her become a more organized person. A positive attitude has also helped make her a better person.

"Having a positive attitude helps people want to be around you and happiness is a must," Polakowski said.

Polakowski began her business work at Kretzmann Insurance Agency in Berlin during high school.

"My business teacher suggested that I work at the Kretzmann Agency," Polakowski said. "I did secretarial work, typing and office tasks. It helped me get a feel for the business atmosphere."

After high school, she commuted to Moraine Park Technical College while keeping her job at Kretzmann Agency. At MPTC, Polakowski said.



Dave Polakowski.

earned her associates degree in accounting.

She has worked as the Administrative Assistant for 16 years at Berlin Area School District's Polakowski has been married to Dave Polabusiness office. Polakowski also belongs to the kowski for 22 years and they have two daugh-Wisconsin Association of School Superintenters, Samantha and Haley. dent Assistants and sits on the advisory board.

"I enjoy spending family time at Brewer "I enjoy having a career that helps me give back games, helping coach the BHS girl's summer to the community I was raised in," Polakowski softball team and helping at high school sporting events," Polakowski said.



Spring 2014 www.bhsalumni.org

# Polakowski sets goals, succeeds

Polakowski serves on the Endowment Commision for All Saints Catholic School, also.

#### **Endowment Fund** rewards seniors

The BHS Alumni Association Endowment Fund continues to grow and to be used to give six graduating seniors a scholarship to assist with college tuition. In addition, it is used to fund The Echo newsletter. The Alumni Association would like to acknowledge that since 2009, our donations exceeded the costs for the scholarships and banquet. Thank you for helping to reward both past and present Berlin High School graduates.

The 2013 BHS Alumni Association Scholarship recipients, who received \$1,200 each, were

### **Kathryn Draves Katelyn Marks Emma Hargrave Kristin Johnson Bryce Pomplun Tristan Szente**

**Scholarship Donors** 

'43 Louise (Gneiser) Schmuh

'48 Majorie (Marquardt) Gonzale

'53 Mary (LaBreche) Murphy In Mem

'54 George & Marlene (Sierakowski)

'57 Harriet Hobbs In Memory of Lynn

'57 Barbara "Bonnie" C. (Keller) Sos

'43 Ed Borth

'43 Richard Bella

'48 Jim Yanikowksi

'48 Robert "Bob" Hamre

'52 Yvonne Zamzow Firary

orv of Michael I. LaBreche

'53 Thomas J. Thomas

'55 Eugene Knutzen

'55 Robert Markofski

'55 David Patton

'56 Charles A. Ihrke

'57 Gary Rasmusse

'58 Joseph Ogden

'58 Richard Kettlewell

'57 Donna Nickolaiser

Gersch

I Hobbs

noski

#### McMonigal selected as 50-year speaker By Lindsey Vang, 2015

After living in Berlin most of his life, Mike McMonigal has been selected as the 2014 50-year speaker.

"I stay in Spring Lake, CA for around five to six months and come back to our Wisconsin cottage during the summer," McMonigal said.

McMonigal graduated

from Berlin in 1964 and also Since retirement, McMostayed in state for college.

"I attended Marquette University and received an undergrad in business administration in 1968," Mc-Monigal said. "After that I graduated with a law degree in 1971."

In 1992, McMonigal achieved the position of the Green Lake County Circuit Judge and retired in 2011.

nigal has golfed, traveled and completed long delayed tasks.

"I now have three children and six grandchildren," Mc-Monigal said. "Having and raising a family has been one of my greatest achievements."

McMonigal has been assigned the speech topic "How Times Have Changed."

#### Alumni Spotlight: Kujawa came home to find success and found a job.

By Melanie Haedt, 2015

Catherine Kujawa, graduate of '85, always thought she would live somewhere warm. Instead, she found her success closer to home in the family banking business. In high school, Kujawa was influenced by Margaret Guertler's knowledge of English, which for Kujawa, is used continuously in the business world.

"Any type of communication is an extension of you and in some cases, the first impression someone has of you," Kujawa said.

After high school, Kujawa went to Marquette University and graduated with a finance and marketing degree. Looking for a warmer climate, she packed her bags, moved to Clearwater, FL

'83 Lisa B. (Robinson) Lee

'88 Lynn (Christiansen) Alsun

"When I came back for the funeral of my Grandpa Harry and saw how many people he had touched with his way of helping people I knew I wanted to do the same thing," Kujawa said.

Kujawa then earned her MBA from St. Louis University, came home, and worked her way to executive vice president of Farmers and Merchants Bank. She works along side her father, John Kujawa, and her two brothers, Peter and Paul.

"We continue Grandpa Harry's vision by working to understand the unique needs of all our customers," Kujawa said.

Kujawa is also currently serving on the Education Commission at All Saints Catholic School and the

Felicia Page In Memory of Glenn

Brooks Memorial

Gerald Fitzpatrick



Catherine Kujawa with children (L-R) Elyse, Nya, Dane, Bria and husband Dave Osterberg.

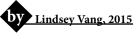
Berlin School Board.

"Being on both school boards has given me a chance to truly understand our educational system and ways to make our schools even better," Kujawa said.

Kujawa is married with six children and one grandchild. She enjoys supporting her children at

Thanks to the **Farmers &** Merchants Bank and to the First National Bank of Berlin for underwriting the costs of postage for this newsletter. Also, thank you to the Berlin **Journal** for public relations support throughout the year.

## **Highlights from the Red 'n' Green** Forensic students achieve, return to nationals



Senior Lucas DeRuyter and sophomore Alesha Guenther will return to nationals for forensics in Chicago this weekend.

"I have one to one and a half months to prepare," DeRuyter said. "All of the topics are sent to the contestants in advance so we can be ready."

This type of forensics is congress which is the event that both Berlin contestants participate. In this mock setting, con-

testants debate multiple ed." bills.

of Order and have the was assigned to argue in rules that are very similar to real congress," former coach Jodi Becker said. "They debate the bills with affirmative and negative speeches, then cast votes."

DeRuyter has submitted his bill and confirmed that it will be debated.

"My category at nationals will be the same as state," DeRuvter said. "That the electoral college should be eliminat- year.

by Payton DeMaster, 2014

At BHS, one wall was currently covered with inspiration. The inspiration is not quotes or photos of famous people, but rather past Berlin graduates that once made an effective, inspirational difference

together a committee of five members to be in charge of the wall.

"The idea of the wall was a way to recognize and feature people from Berlin who have excelled in their chosen fields and who could be an inspiration," Historical Society member Bobbi Erdmann said.

The high school seemed like an appropriate spot for the wall, because they wanted to reach out to students.

to locate the wall because it has the highest concentration of students, and those students are preparing their own futures," Erdmann said.

Ten nominees were selected by the Historical Society to start the wall. Every year, at least two more people will be added and members of The Historical Society put the community will have the chance to nominate people.

> "It was difficult to decide who to put on the wall to start, so each of the five members brought a list of people they thought were eligible," Erdmann said. "We then narrowed it down until we had ten."

The project was then brought to school board members.

"The idea of honoring highly successful and inspirational former graduates of large display sign. The board "We chose the high school Berlin has been talked about also held a ceremony on Dec.

'58 Alice (Glass) Klawi I age Z

'62 Curt Buchholt '88 Becky Polk-Pohlman '63 Larry & Karen Posorske '88 Karen (Eagen) Wolff '63 Ralph Treder '63 Karen (Thorsen) Betler '93 Tiffany (Lambert) Sasse '63 Ronald J. Luepke '63 Gerald R. Doro 63 Donna (Groskreutz) Dretske '64 Karen (Thom) Schultz In Memory Mike & Brenda Murkley of Judy (Trochinski) Lese '64 Paul Splittgerber '64 Joan Sobieski Estes Krause '67 Dennis R. Wiese '68 William Lawler '69 Kathleen (Lane) Dickerso of (02) '71 Dawn (Pinkall) Eitel '71 Bonnie (Resop) Lundt '72 Maureen Elizabeth Bea Memory of Mary Ellen Krebs '73 Thomas Barnowske '76 Randall & Cheryl Behm In Memo ry Nadine (Behm) Boltz '78 Jane Ellen Lind '78 Laura (Clark) Moriearty Mary Ann Brisky 78 Steve & Cathy (Meyer) Sponholt '78 Scott Jezwinsk Lelah Beltz Tesch '83 Shelly Reiner

'59 Elaine (Bombinski) Van Rhyn '60 Richard Klick

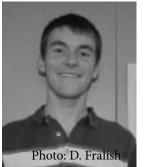
James & Diane Nowak In Memory '88 Craig & Carleen (Meyer) Rohde 08 Jason Zimmerman & Andy De lim & Joan Nickolaisen In Memory of Randy Nickolaisen (Class of '78) Shari Piekarski In Honor of Ruth Francisco & Mary Jane Martinez In Memory of Benjamin Marshall (Class Pete & Carol Ceman, Heidi & Paul Semenske, Sharon & Richard Anderson Barbara & Glenn Giersbach, Robert & Carol Rosenberg, Charlotte Burr Sharon Evensen In Memory of Ethel Sprague Gatzke (Class of '25) Gordon & Margaret Jodarski In Memory of Margaret Jodarski (Class of '38) Dennis & Bety Rucks InMemory Alice Resor

Gen Wykowski Mark & Colleen Nowak In Memor Genevieve Wykowski Paul Dennis Keck Richard Roth In Memory of Mary A ice (Jeskey) Roth Mark & Collen Nowak In Memory Gen Wykowski Richard Roth Richard & Lucille Bella James & Dianne Nowak Earl & Judith Pinkall Michael & Connie Clark Ttee Wesley Belter Richard Evhrlund Sarah I. Paulick Jonna & Bob Kirk Ralph E. Yedinak Friends of Caroline Drover Witte Ju dith Martin In Memory of Caroline (Carrie) Wittle (Drover) (Class of '49) David & Maureen Hess Admiral James J. Carey

# sporting events.

Guenther submitted "They use Roberts Rules three different bills and favor of granting statehood to the District of Columbia.

> "I wrote three bills, a resolution to increase intelligence among American students, a bill to grant statehood to the District of Columbia and a bill to lift the Cuban embargo," Guenther said. This will be Guenther's second year at nationals and DeRuyter's fourth



Lucas DeRuvter **Event:** Forensics

Topic This Year: Elminating the Electoral college

Alesha Guenther **Event:** Forensics

Topic This Year: To be determined

Years at Nationals: Two Years at Nationals: Four

## BHS wall designated 'Be proud, be inspired'



The inspiration wall, located next to the auditorium, displays multiple pictures and stories of inspiring Berlin graduates.

intendent Dr. Robert Eidahl said. "Bobbi Erdmann contacted me about the idea and the district agreed to help."

The school board helped with installing the plaques on the wall, and tech engineering teacher Marty Wenig made a

for a number of years," Super- 4 that unveiled the Berlinites featured on the wall

> "The ceremony was attended by community members, and was short, nice and appreciated by all who attended," Eidahl said.

Money for the plaques and other materials the Historical Society needed were sponsored from the selectees

on the wall and their families.

The main goal of the wall is to inspire students to follow their dreams.

"We hope that these people and what they have been able to accomplish will inspire today's students to follow their own dreams and know that it can be done." Erdmann said.

