



## TRI JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Our mission: To serve the constituents of South Henry School Corporation, including current and former students, parents, faculty, staff and the greater community.*

### Let's Complete the Gymnasium Mural Project *by Rex Crabtree*

A couple of years ago, the Tri High Alumni Association Board was approached by the school administration to assist in raising funds to complete the mural paintings in the gymnasium. While the north wall has been painted, it remains bare of a mural. Our board elected to take on this project and have raised part of the funds needed to finish it. The total cost to complete the mural is \$6,800, of which we have raised \$2,700 to date. This leaves \$4,100 needed to complete the mural.

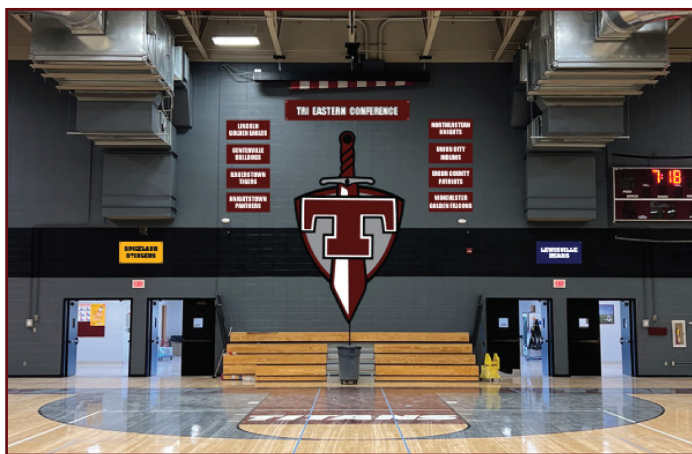
The school administration had planned to propose additional funding this spring and summer. Unfortunately,

due to significant administration changes at the end of the school year, the funding proposal did not materialize. As a nonprofit organization, we are moving forward with our efforts to raise the remaining balance and

complete the mural, ensuring the beautiful renovation of Don Schwarzkopf Gymnasium is finished. We ask for your support through a monetary donation to help us reach our goal and create a lasting symbol of Titan pride for years to come.

**"How can I donate"**  
*see page 3*

Find us on Facebook under  
"Tri High Jr. Sr. High School Alumni Association"  
look for our official banner. Contact us via email  
at [trialumni@shenry.k12.in.us](mailto:trialumni@shenry.k12.in.us)



*Rendering of the wall*

### "Mrs. Painter: A Lifelong Champion for Tri High and Its Students" *by John Witt*

If you attended Tri High between 1969 and 1996, chances are you crossed paths with Mrs. Painter. Whether you were in one of her Home Economics classes, participated in a school event she organized, or simply saw her around the hallways, she was a prominent figure in the school community. Mrs. Painter wasn't just a teacher; she was also the first cheerleading sponsor and even wrote the lyrics to the school song. Over the years, she has become the Tri Jr. Sr. High School Alumni Association's most consistent donor.

I had the chance to ask Mrs. Painter why she chooses to support the Alumni Association. She shared, "I'd really like to see more people get involved in helping our local kids. We send money all over the world, but often our local kids get left behind. I learned early on that if you don't work, you don't eat. You have to work, make money, and feed your kids. When they want to go to school, you have to find a way to make it happen—and the local community should be helping with that. If we all

pitch in, even just a little, we'd have a lot of support."

Mrs. Painter also reflected on some of her favorite memories from her time at Tri High. "I loved the fun activities we did, and I always enjoyed seeing the kids receiving their education. Our convocations and pep rallies were so much fun, and we had a great time getting the teachers involved in activities with the students.

It's important for kids to see their teachers as real people, not just someone who stands in front of the classroom all day."

She also recalled a particularly moving experience: "We did things like teaching students how to fold the American flag and learning about ...*Continued to page 2*



...Painter

the importance of supporting it. We had veterans come in and present a program on the flag, and the kids were so respectful and quiet you could hear a pin drop. It was a truly amazing moment.”

When asked about her philosophy on education, Mrs. Painter said, “I want kids to have a good time, but I also want them to get a solid education and make something of themselves—not just for themselves, but for their community. Not everyone will go to Washington, D.C., or the moon, but everyone can be a good citizen in their own town.”

She also shared a lighthearted memory from her time as cheerleading sponsor: “I drove the cheerleaders all the way to Jean Lee Originals in Goshen, Indiana, to pick out their first uniforms. They tried on different styles and picked what they wanted to wear forever—I’m pretty sure they still have those uniforms. Can you imagine taking six cheerleaders to Goshen in your car? It was quite the trip!”

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Painter for taking the time to share her memories and insights with us. We are so grateful for her ongoing support of the Tri Jr. Sr. High School Alumni Association and for everything she’s done over the years for Tri High.

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## 50 Years of Cheers: A Homecoming Celebration

*By Lana Ammerman-White*

In 2018, the Tri Jr.-Sr. High School Alumni Association began planning for an unforgettable celebration: the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of Tri High. The festivities kicked off during the Homecoming game on September 21, 2019, and one of the most special moments of the event was the gathering of former cheerleaders to perform the school song, “Wave the Flag,” written by former teacher and Grand Marshal of the 50th reunion, Mrs. Kathy Painter.

The idea was to bring together all former Tri High cheerleaders—from freshmen to seniors, from junior varsity to varsity—to celebrate the school’s rich cheerleading history. Coordinating this historic event took a lot of preparation and teamwork. Co-cheer sponsors at the time, Julie Bowman and her daughter, Jordyn Bowman Hoffman, took the lead in organizing practices. Jordyn skillfully combined elements from past routines from the 1970s, 80s, and 2000s to choreograph a unified version of the school song.

To help those who couldn’t attend in person, practice videos were made available to out-of-town cheerleaders, and T-shirts were designed for the event. Pom-poms were provided, and the atmosphere was full of excitement and school spirit as cheerleaders from different generations came together to celebrate their shared memories.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the presence of the original Titan cheerleaders, who famously wore the candy-striped outfits of 1969. These uniforms were passed down through the years, with one now proudly displayed at the school. The original cheerleaders in attendance included Jane Nugen-Brown, Mary Smith-Vance, Sheila Pierce, Paulette Reece-Wallace, and Debbie Lloyd. It was a special moment to see them back together, honoring their legacy.

Other notable attendees were the cheerleaders from the 1976-77 Titan basketball sectional team: Paula Ortman Hinebaugh (76), Cindy A. Barlow-Cox (77), Cheri Fairchild-Estelle

(77), Kathy Huffman-Walden (77), and Mary “Bee Bee” King-Reece (77). Their presence added even more spirit to an already unforgettable event.

As part of the celebration, we held a raffle for a megaphone signed by all the cheerleaders present, which was won by the late Tri alumnus David Martin.

The Alumni Association extends its deepest thanks to everyone for their continued support of our senior scholarships, which we’ve been proud to present every year. We also love organizing events like this one for our alumni, and we couldn’t do it without your donations, your presence, and your help with our projects. Volunteering is a fun and rewarding way to stay involved, so if you’re interested in joining us for future projects—especially in honor of the 60th anniversary of Tri Jr.-Sr. High School—register on our database. (see next page) Let’s keep the Titan spirit alive for many years to come!





## Join the Tri High Alumni Association

We're looking for passionate individuals to join the Tri High Alumni Association and help us continue our mission of supporting current students, fostering community connections, and preserving the rich history of Tri Jr.-Sr. High School. Whether you're interested in volunteering, donating, or simply staying connected, your involvement makes a difference. Join us today and be part of something special—together, we can make a lasting impact for future generations of Titans!

Scan this QR code to register with our official THS database and stay connected with future mailings and events!

Register with the Tri High Alumni Association Database



## 2024 Tri Alumni Scholarship Recipients Announced

The 2024 Tri Alumni Scholarship recipients are Trinity E. Mettert, attending Ball State University majoring in Biology/Pre-Vet, and Kennadi L. Knepley, attending Purdue University Majoring in Medical Laboratory Science. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship to support their college journey.



*Kennadi*



*Trinity*

### Past Scholarship Recipients

- 2020 **Lindsey Blake**, Ivy Tech
- Kyle Falck**, Ball State University
- 2021 **Holden Thomas**, Purdue University
- Daryl Fith**, Vincennes University
- 2022 **Makena Mathews**, Ball State University
- Gracin Jessup**, IU East
- 2023 **Annabelle Searcy**, University of Missouri
- Parker Burke**, Marian University

## Did You Know?

### The Tri High Alumni Association Supports Our Community in Many Ways

The Tri High Alumni Association has a long history of giving back to its community. Over the years, the association has provided vital support to students and families in need. Among their efforts, they have contributed funds and donations to the Tri High Closet, helping ensure that no student goes hungry. Additionally, the association has paid off lunch balances for students who were unable to cover their back balances, easing financial burdens for families. These acts of kindness and generosity highlight the ongoing commitment of the Tri High Alumni Association to making a positive impact on the school and its community.



**TRI HIGH  
CLOSET**

6972 IN-103  
STRAUGHN, IN 47387

## Tri High Class of 1985 Reunion *by Mike Thompson*

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Tri High Class of 1985 gathered for their reunion dinner at Ky's American Bistro in New Castle, followed by a fun evening at Ink and Ale. It was a night full of great conversation and plenty of reminiscing! Mark your calendars for the Class of 1985's 40<sup>th</sup> reunion, coming up on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



Pictured classmates: Robin Whichard, Scott Brown, Roger Catron, Mike Thompson, Scott Spurgin, Duke Blevins, Scott Herbert and Robert Moistner with spouse/significant others.

## How can I donate?

Donations can be made by check to:  
Tri High Alumni Association  
6972 S. State Road 103  
Straughn, IN 47387

Alternatively, you can donate via  
PayPal to: [trialumni@shenry.k12.in.us](mailto:trialumni@shenry.k12.in.us)  
or <http://venmo.com/u/tri-alumni>

Tri Jr.-Sr. High School  
@Tri-Alumni



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