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TRI JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

https://trihighalumni.org

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

Celebrating Academic Excellence: A New Tradition for Tri High

By Barbara J. Alder

On May 27, 2026, the Tri High Alumni Association hosted an inaugural Academic Reception after Senior Honors Night to celebrate the academic achievements of Tri High students, past and present, while highlighting the importance of investing in the success of future generations of Titans.

The reception brought together members of the Tri High community, including senior honorees, scholarship recipients, Lilly scholarship recipients, valedictorians and salutatorians from past and present classes, faculty and staff, alumni, and Association supporters. The gathering provided an opportunity to recognize outstanding academic accomplishments, encourage students to strive for excellence, and celebrate the lasting impact of a Tri High education.

The event also highlighted an important part of the Alumni Association's mission: supporting students through scholarships and educational opportunities. While alumni activities often bring to mind athletics and school spirit, the Association remains committed to supporting academic achievement as well. The reception helped raise awareness of this broader mission and the importance of continued scholarship support for future Titans.

The event served as a reminder that the strength of the Tri High community extends well beyond graduation. Alumni and friends play an important role in helping students pursue their goals, celebrate their accomplishments, and prepare for the future.

With your support, we hope to make the Academic Reception an annual tradition and bring the event back in 2027. Donations to the Tri High Alumni Association help fund scholarships, recognize student achievement, and sustain opportunities for future generations of graduates. Every contribution helps the Association continue its work and make a lasting difference in the lives of Tri High students.

Recent donors have funded scholarships in honor of, or in memory of, family and friends. Classmates could come together at the time of a milestone reunion to honor classmates they have lost, their class sponsor, or a favorite teacher. Contact the Alumni Association for ideas. Future Titans will be grateful.

By bringing the school community together to celebrate academic excellence, the Academic Reception represented an important step toward building a lasting tradition of recognizing achievement and investing in the future of Tri High.

Help us continue investing in the future of Tri High. Your generosity can help the Alumni Association recognize achievement, provide scholarships, and open doors for the next generation of Titans. Together, we can build on this year's event and make the 2027 Academic Reception an even greater success.

2080

By Rex Crabtree

I know that you are probably thinking that's a strange name for a title. If you choose to read my article until the end, I'll explain it to you.

I want you to take a moment to think back on your years at Tri High. Was there a teacher who had an impact on your life that remains still today? As I started writing this many people came to mind.


Ruth Batson

Former teachers, coaches, and administrators. I wish to focus on one in particular, Mrs. Ruth Batson. For those of you who were there in the beginning she might have been your English teacher.

Oftentimes through the years I have thought of her and the journey she started me on. Many times I have wished that I could say thank you.

What she has inspired has nothing to do with the subject she taught and everything to do with the person she was. In the fall of my sophomore year, she asked me if I would attempt to teach a seventh-grade student how to read. What! Give up my study hall? Sure, I wouldn't mind this was a time period prior to special needs classes so many times kids just got passed along to the next teacher until they were old enough to drop out. Was I successful? Hopefully but I lost track of him after the year.

What Mrs. Batson had done unknowingly was ignite a spark that turned into a lifetime of working with our youth. Whether it was teaching a Sunday School class, coaching, officiating, being a board member of this association, or various other things for over fifty years I have poured my life and energy into the lives of our young people.

This is probably at least my fourth or fifth draft and in others I shared stories from the journey but decided it was too lengthy and I didn't want to lose your interest. There have been lots of wonderful events along the way but a few tragic ones too. Through it all it has been worth every step.

I will share a recent event briefly. In July I received a bit of bad news health wise. One of my former players who is a junior learned about it last week. A day later I received a message offering to do anything even grocery shopping if needed. The message ended with the same thing I tell the young people I have worked with. The last line said, I love you coach. That is something young people need to hear because I know from experience if you don't say it they many times don't hear it at home.

If you've read this far, I would like to share a line from the poem: They Ask Me Why I Teach.

They ask me why I teach and I say,
where could I find more splendid company?

We all live busy lives, even in retirement, I truly know. As members of the alumni association, the board meets Six times a year for an hour and a half. Nine hours a year. Time is something we all have…. until we don't.

2080 hours is what each year gives us. Do you have 9 hours to give to help enrich the lives of the students and faculty at Tri High?

Please come alongside us as we endeavor to do more. Many hands make light work.

Thank you and we'd love to have you!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL ALUMNI AND...

By Lana Ammerman-White

The current Alumni Board Members would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous donations you have given to help us with our scholarships we give to 2 Tri Seniors each year. As far as we know, we are the only non-profit group of our small size in this area that gives this large of a scholarship to not one but 2 graduating seniors each year. We are very proud of that and we could not do that without your help. With the cost of everything today skyrocketing, we understand how difficult it can be for some of you to be able to donate at all. That is why we also want you to know there is another way you can be of great, priceless help to our association.

As of now, there are only 9 active Board Members who attend meetings, functions and whatever fundraisers we have to raise money for our cause. As explained in other articles in this newsletter, there are a few things we do besides the 2 scholarships. We hold meetings bi-monthly either in person or electronically to share our ideas and plan our activities. What we desperately need is "Younger Blood". I'm not saying we are OLD by any means. However, the youngest of us is a 1985 graduate!

We would love to get at least 10 to 20 if not more new faces to join us every meeting!

We elect officers with term limits to keep us official and we are an official 501-c3 non-profit organization. With 9 of us, we are stretched very thin, and yes, we need more help! No, it is NOT hard work and it is not time consuming. Our ongoing fundraiser 2 or 3 times a year is at 1000 Degree Pizza in Mt. Summit and we also have 50/50 raffles at Football and Basketball games.

So again, we want to give you a BIG THANK YOU for supporting your Tri High Alumni Association with your past donations and hope that you will continue to donate in the future. We also want you to know in order to continue to do the work we do, WE NEED YOUR PHYSICAL HELP TO COME TO OUR MEETINGS AND BE AN ACTIVE BOARD MEMBER AND "GET INVOLVED HANDS ON" with what we do.

Our 60th Year Reunion (60 Years of Tri) is coming up in September of 2029. We need this to happen NOW as we start to make plans for this big celebration. If you attended the 50 Years of Tri Celebration, you'll remember what an Epic day of fun that was! If you didn't attend, we are sure you heard about it!

Please tell your friends and classmates to join you and attend one of our meetings soon or get with an active member to answer any questions you may have. We hope to have many more new and younger faces join us, so that we can continue to provide scholarships and expand our ability to assist the school in other ways.

Alumni Board Members:
Barbara J. Alder (1973), Nesa Clark (1972), Rex Crabtree (1973), Don Froderman (1976)
Jeff Herbert (1982), Katherine Allhands-Searcy (1973), D. Michael Thompson (1985)
Lana Ammerman-White (1977), John Witt (1977)

RECENT CLASS REUNIONS











Reunions Scheduled for 2027
Class of 1977, 50th reunion.

Once a Titan, Always a Titan: Chris Stilwell Returns Home to Lead South Henry

By Mike Thompson

For Chris Stilwell, a 1988 graduate of Tri High School, returning as superintendent of South Henry School Corporation is more than a professional opportunity. It's a homecoming. Following graduation, Stilwell served four years in the United States Army before pursuing a career in education. His professional journey has included teaching special education, serving as a principal and school administrator, and spending approximately seven years as superintendent of the Indiana Division of Youth Services. Along the way, he previously returned to Tri, serving as assistant principal, athletic director, and eventually principal. When the opportunity arose to lead South Henry School Corporation in June 2026, Stilwell welcomed the chance to return to the community that helped shape his life. "It's just been a fantastic return home," he shared.



Stilwell's connection to Tri extends well beyond his professional accomplishments. Walking the school hallways today brings back memories of teachers, coaches, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other staff who made a lasting impression on him. He particularly remembers teacher and coach Andy Hahn for his patience, encouragement, and genuine interest in students. Those experiences continue to influence Stilwell's leadership philosophy, which emphasizes service, collaboration, and creating an environment where every student feels valued. While recognizing the challenges of changing demographics and enrollment, Stilwell believes South Henry's greatest strengths remain its dedicated staff, close-knit community, and ability to provide students with individualized attention. He is committed to preserving the traditions and personal connections that have made generations of students proud to call themselves Titans. Stilwell also shared that he views his position as superintendent as a long-term commitment, expressing that he could envision finishing his career and eventually retiring from South Henry School Corporation. His outlook reflects both his personal connection to the district and his dedication to its future.

As South Henry looks toward the future, Stilwell recognizes the importance of maintaining strong relationships with alumni and the broader community. During the interview, he expressed appreciation for the pride alumni continue to demonstrate and the opportunities to strengthen their connection with today's students and educators. With many graduates now living beyond the district's boundaries, the Alumni Association provides an important link between Tri's past, present, and future. Through scholarships, community engagement, and continued involvement, alumni can play a meaningful role in supporting the school corporation and its students. Stilwell's return represents an exciting opportunity to build upon those relationships, strengthen community pride, and ensure the Titan tradition continues for generations to come.

Once a Titan, Always a Titan!

Spotlight on Alumni Association Board Member

My name is Mike Thompson, and I am a 1985 graduate of Tri-High School. I currently serve as an at-large member of the Tri High Alumni Association's Board of Directors, where I have been involved for more than three years. With a background in nonprofit development, I enjoy using my experience, time, and talents to help the Alumni Association raise awareness and secure funding for the things that matter most to our school and its students. While scholarships are an important part of what we do, I also believe our support can make a real difference by helping fund programs, resources, and opportunities that may fall outside the school's available budget. Every donation supports a dedicated group of volunteers who want to see Tri High thrive and help its students become the best they can be—not only through scholarships, but also by investing in the programs and experiences that enrich their education. I am proud to serve alongsde others who share that commitment to our school and its future.



2026 Tri Alumni Scholarship Winners Announced

by: Kathy Allhands-Searcy

We had the most applicants (10) for our scholarships in 2026. We selected Ava Houchins and Jillian Chew as our recipients of $1000.00 each. Ava will be attending Purdue University to study Biomedical Health Services and Jillian will attend Taylor University to study Human Psychology & Preventive Medicine. Congratulations and best of luck in your studies. We would love to increase our scholarship dollars so we can award more, please help us with your donations.



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

2024 - Kennadi Knepley, Trinity Mettert

2025 - Dalton Key, IU Indy School of Business
Kenley Cornelius, Ivy Tech

Scholarship funding has been raised through Kroger Community Awards, 50/50 drawings at athletic events and 1000 Degree Pizza fundraisers. Also direct donations of interested and generous community and business members, school faculty and staff members. We are looking forward to growing our scholarships and starting a growth fund for future awards. We cannot do this without your help. We thank each of you for your time, efforts and funds donated over the past years. We ask for your continued support as any monetary contribution will be greatly appreciated. You may send contributions to:

Tri Jr. Sr. High School Alumni Association
6972 South State Road 103 • Straughn, IN 47387

Join the Tri High Alumni Association Database

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

The Tri High Alumni Association Supports Our Community in Many Ways

The Tri High Alumni Association's mission is to serve the constituents of South Henry School Corporation including current and former students, parents, faculty, staff and the greater community. Over the years, the association has provided support to students and families in need. We have contributed funds and donations to the Tri High Closet, helping ensure that no student goes hungry. 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.

For additional information contact:
Rachel Smith - Rsmith@shenry.k12.in.us



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