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*The Knoll Family.
From left to right,
Jennifer Knoll, Joe
Knoll, Andrew Knoll
and Addyson Knoll.*

Welcome back!

Karen (Slabaugh) Humphries '83

In case you haven't heard, Marlington's new Superintendent is 1984 graduate Joe Knoll. And what's even better, the District scored a "two-for" as Joe is married to Jennifer (Burden) Knoll, also from the class of '84!

Joe received his B.S. in Education from Mt. Union in 1988. He spent ten years teaching math at Lorain High (now Lorain Admiral King), becoming Assistant Principal there in 1998. In 2001 he became Principal at West Branch High School and was there until accepting a position at Mahoning County Educational Service Center in 2010.

Following high school, Jennifer attended Thiel College in Pennsylvania and in 1988 earned a B.A. in Speech and Hearing Science. She spent a year at Ohio University doing social work with a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for adolescents and adults. Jennifer then worked in an adult foster care program

until 1998, when she moved to a tutor and interpreter position for the deaf and hearing impaired at Lorain High.

Married since 1998, Joe and Jennifer are thrilled with Joe's new career opportunity. They have two children, Addyson, born in 2000, and Andrew, born in 2003. Andrew has Down syndrome and has now also been diagnosed with autism. Jennifer says he is active in therapies and they are having great success. "We love our family and feel so blessed," she says. Jennifer goes on to say, "We feel like we're back home – being able to reconnect with friends. It's been kind of a dream for us, and it's exciting because it's where we're supposed to be."

Joe sums up his new job at Marlington like this: "I used to tell the students at West Branch that there's going to be a day that your alma mater calls on you to give your time, talent, or even money. I look at this as my time to give back to Marlington."

Our Mission

The primary mission of the Marlington Alumni Association is to provide scholarships, through a non-discriminatory process, to Marlington graduates so they may further their education in their chosen field of study. The Association will keep a database of Marlington graduates to enhance pride and tradition in the Marlington Community.



2012 MAA Outstanding Alumni Recipient Walter "Wally" Gumm

Karen (Slabaugh) Humphries '83



Friends of **Wally Gumm ('63)** have no difficulty articulating their admiration for him. Longtime friend and best man at his wedding, **Tom Liber ('63)**, says "The thing about Wally is that he never looked back. He dwells on the positive, not the negative."

From age 2-18 Wally grew up in the Stark County Welfare system. His mother couldn't care for him and he never knew his father so he spent his youth in and out of foster homes until he came to Fairmount Children's Home in Alliance. Life there was difficult and Wally ran away several times. Tom Liber's family lived near Fairmount. "It was a crowded, tough place to live, he says. "Kids weren't put in jail back then. It was quite an eclectic group of kids."

Because of his bad behavior, Wally was given an ultimatum by the county and by Marlinton- "straighten up" or be sent from the area. It was his freshman year and he chose to comply. Wally credits Marlinton – his teachers, principals, coaches, and classmates for making a difference in his life. By his sophomore year he was elected class president. "I didn't even know what that meant!" said Gumm, but the fact he was accepted was something

he remembers still.

Wally played football and was on the wrestling team, becoming the wrestling team's MVP. Being part of the team was challenging because he didn't have parents to drive him to and from practice or games. If someone didn't volunteer to drive him, "I hitched or walked," he said. On graduation day, he was on his own. He lived at the Alliance YMCA until entering the Air Force. He was honorably discharged in 1964, found a job at a steel mill and attended Mt. Union College. He later took a position with Alliance United Cooperatives, an agricultural buying group.

He married his high school sweetheart, **Andrea (Miller) Gumm ('63)**, in 1967 and ten years later moved to Chicago where he had accepted a position with Liberty Distributors. In 1988 he was contacted by a plumbing wholesale buying group and offered the position of President. He worked to transform the company, significantly increasing participation and sales. In 1990 the president of a wholesale supply company in Texas contacted Wally and asked him to form a new plumbing wholesale group. It took his savings to start the company,

but 22 years later Wally takes pride in having grown Embassy Group, LTD. to a \$3.5 billion corporation.

Scott Robertson ('80), President of Robertson Heating Supply, came to know Wally through their shared industry, "Wally is a sincere, trustworthy, easy-to-work with and talk to individual. He's a great, caring, sincere, individual you can't help but like!"

Andrea and Wally met and became friends as Andrea's mother, a Marlinton teacher, took Wally under her wing. Their friendship grew and they have been "partners in everything" their entire marriage. "The strength of our marriage is our partnership." Andrea and Wally have two grown children – Heidi and Steve – and five grandchildren. "My family means so much to me." He commends his mother for making the difficult choice to give him up. Ever positive he said, "I survived. We're okay."

Wally was nominated by his sister-in-law, **Marita (Miller) Weidman ('71)**. "It is remarkable to me the person he has become and the accomplishments he has achieved. MHS can be very proud of Wally Gumm."

Luke Witte

Karen (Slabaugh) Humphries '83

Raise your hand if you remember the name Luke Witte! A 1969 MHS grad, Luke went on to receive his B.S. in Journalism from Ohio State University in 1973, and is remembered in the community for the years (73-77) he played for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Due to an injury he spent his last year with the Cavs on the injured reserve list and completed his basketball career playing in Italy and Switzerland from 1977-1979.

While many of Luke's best Marlinton memories are basketball related, remembering "winning seasons, awards, exciting crowds, a warm gym and cold nights," it goes much deeper. "It was the sense of community." He recalled saying to his teammates one night, "This community is expecting a lot from us. We don't just let ourselves down if we don't get it together; we let hundreds of others down too."

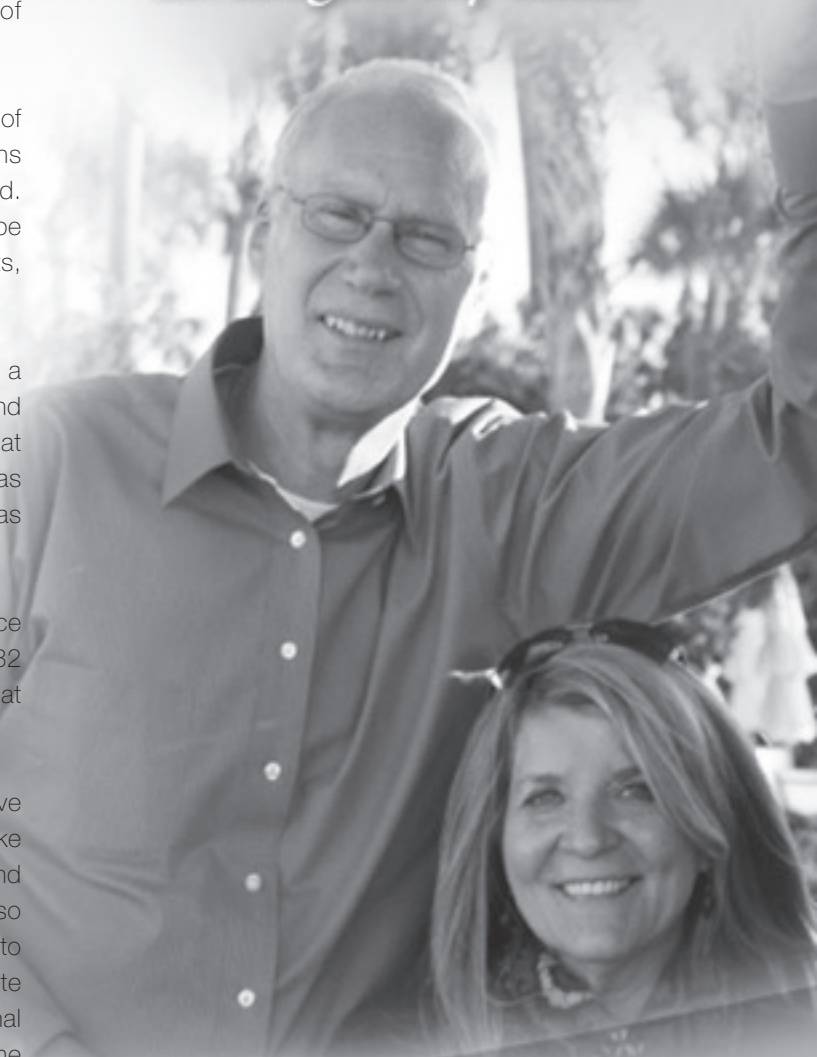
Luke feels he benefited growing up in the small community of Marlboro. It was a place where you would "help first, ask questions later." He moved to Marlboro in 1962 after his parents divorced. "The community, the teachers, and my classmates, just let me be me and I was able to put efforts into growing strong in my talents, nourish my weaknesses, and investigate my faith."

Faith has played an important part in Luke's life. He earned a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1993 and worked for eleven years as the Team Leader of Family Ministries at Forest Hill Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has served as Carolinas Division Director for the Marketplace Chaplains, of Dallas Texas, for seven years.

Luke married his wife, Donita, on December 30, 1977 at Science Hill Christian Church in Alliance. They have three children: Erin, 32 of Charlotte, NC; Lyle, 30 of Boone, NC; and Emily 21, a senior at Baldwin-Wallace in Berea, OH, Conservatory of Music.

Luke's brother, Wylan and several nieces and nephews still live in the area. Saying he has always called Marlboro home, Luke mentioned attending the MAA Golf Outing a few years ago and that it was "overwhelming" how many people he knew after so many years away. It was good to catch up, he said, but also to feel "the attachment to the community." He realized in Charlotte there are "pockets of loosely held communities, but few original Charlotteans. Depth comes with history, and I feel that when I come home." To his Marlinton family he says, "Thank you for your grace, encouragement, and support!"

The community, the teachers, and my classmates, just let me be me and I was able to put efforts into growing strong in my talents, nourish my weaknesses, and investigate my faith.



So, when did you Graduate?



Class reunions are funny things. Some of us love them and can't wait to catch up with those we knew well and those we've come to know better. Others of us feel no particular need to reconnect. But almost everyone stops occasionally and measures the passing of time with those landmark anniversaries.

If you graduated from Marlinton High School in 1962, this is the year you'll celebrate your 50th anniversary. Eggs were about 32 cents a dozen, an average house cost \$12,500 and gasoline was a whopping (gasp!) 28 cents a gallon! The Beatles, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons and Neal Sedaka were popular on the radio and President John F. Kennedy went toe-to-toe with Soviet President Nikita Krushchev regarding missiles in Cuba.

If you graduated from Marlinton in 1987, this is your 25th year since graduation. Eggs were 65 cents a dozen, the average home sold for \$85,500 and gasoline had risen to 89 cents a gallon. Popular musicians included U2, Michael Jackson and Heart. Ronald Reagan was President, DNA was used for the first time to convict a criminal and The Simpsons arrived to television.

However, if you're one of the over 80 alumni and from the era of those in the photo above, you probably have a different perspective on reunions. The earliest members of the Marlinton Alumni Association, those who graduated from the former Marlboro High School (1927-1962) gather every other year to reminisce about epic Marlboro sporting moments, laugh about pranks they pulled and simply enjoy friendships that have endured decades of real life joys and

complications. Some eighty classmates and numerous spouses and friends, met at Marlboro Elementary to be part of the most consistently well-attended Marlinton reunion hosted. If you're curious about your reunion (even just a little) and want to consider attending your next one, check out the list of upcoming events at www.marlingtonalumni.org, click on the News and Events tab, and take a look at Class News. Go ahead and reconnect with your classmates- you'll probably have more fun than you thought!

And just for the record, in 1942 eggs were not purchased from a grocery store but gathered from your backyard chickens. Gasoline was 15 cents a gallon, but rationed to 3 gallons a week and an average home sold for \$3,770.

1st row: Richard Candle '48, Ray Sluss '40, Harold Devies '39, Betty Devies '39, Bob Haines '45, Bernice Shaffer Sloan '30, Ethel M. Anstine '36, Kathleen Aquino '50, Ruth Booth Appleton '50. **2nd row:** Carroll Duff Candle '49, Alvema J. Smith '46, Don McAlister '44, Isabel Foltz Pontius '38, Miriam Gilcrest Moore '43, Bill Martin '46, Gordon Knisely '45, Tom Chenevey '45, Dale Whitacre '44, Ernie Walker '50, Betty Enoch Moore '50. **3rd row:** Don Moore '45, Bill Zirblis '45, Bill Bloss '47, John Moore '47, Russ Wymer '46, Chuck Michel '50, Carl Richards '50, Wade Fox '41, Robert J. Albrich '48.

Photo courtesy of The Hartville News.

2012 Marlinton Alumni Golf Outing nets \$10,000 for Scholarships



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On Friday, July 20, the Marlinton Alumni Association (MAA) hosted its annual golf scramble outing at Tannenhauf Golf Club. This outing is the MAA's flagship fundraiser in their goal to provide scholarships to Marlinton graduates to further their education. More than \$300,000 has been awarded in scholarships since 1989. This year's event netted a profit of \$10,910.

The MAA hosted 104 players on a day which turned out to be a great day for golf. The temperature was a cool 70 degrees. There was a bit of excitement when Steve Wolf came within inches of a hole in one on hole #11 sponsored by Lavery Chevrolet. Had Mr. Wolf been successful, he would have left that day with a brand new 2013 Malibu from Lavery!

The first place team was K. Palmer & Associates Insurance Agency comprised of Bryan Haidet, Aaron Haidet, Hunter Palmer, and Kelly Palmer. The second place team was made up of Marlinton administrators and coaches, Dan Swisher, Joe Knoll, Jim Nicodemo, and Shawn Dillon. And third place went to Robertson's Heating, with their team of Scott Robertson, Tim Novak, Curt Coblentz, and Caleb Hall.

The day included a breakfast buffet, 18 holes of golf, and steak dinner. Also, numerous door prizes were awarded. The MAA would like to thank everyone who participated and made our 2012 golf outing a success!

First place team - K. Palmer & Associates Insurance Agency their score -12
Bryan Haidet, Aaron Haidet ('11), Hunter Palmer ('11) & Kelly Palmer ('76)

Second place team -
Dan Swisher, Joe Knoll, Jim Nicodemo & Shawn Dillon ('88) their score -12

Third place team - Robertson's Heating their score -11
Scott Roberson ('80), Tim Novak, Curt Coblentz & Caleb Hall

The **Marlinton**
Alumni Association

www.marlingtonalumni.org. Direct questions to marlingtonalumni@yahoo.com.



Why We Do What We Do.

With seventeen fully funded scholarships in our portfolio (and new ones added nearly every year!) the Marlinton Alumni Association strives to meet donors philanthropic goals while simultaneously being strategic and forward thinking as we address current and future educational opportunities for Marlinton students. In addition to academic-based scholarships we are pleased to offer awards to students with specific career interests in agriculture, business, science, journalism, music, education and more. We also award scholarships to students interested in pursuing a trade or certificate program or a two-year associates degree and to students who exhibit the traits of a true Duke- hard work and school spirit! Whether you are are a current donor, a parent of a Marlinton student or interested in setting up a legacy scholarship, we welcome your questions or comments. A full list of scholarships and details is available at www.marlingtonalumni.org. Direct questions to marlingtonalumni@yahoo.com.

Time for a Makeover!

Just like our homes (and occasionally our bodies!) there is a time for sprucing up. As the Marlinton Alumni Association continues to grow and take on more challenges we thought it was time for our own makeover. With lots of help from our board members, you will continue to see improvements in our newsletter, our webpage and our recently revived Facebook page.

Special thanks and kudos go to board members Brian Bradway ('84), Larry Ray ('78) and David Erb ('81) for providing their pro-bono (if you missed Latin, that means free!) expertise and assistance. Their collective efforts not only improve the look and feel of your MAA but enhance the usability, better connect alumni of all ages and help us keep you up to date.

Whether you have a student at MHS and want to review scholarship options, need information on your next reunion or just want to peruse a previous issue of the MAA newsletter, your MAA webpage is a handy resource worth marking as a favorite on your web browser. Look at the list of "Missing" alumni and see if you can help. You'll find us at www.marlingtonalumni.org.



Facebook is a fast and easy way to stay in touch. To receive MAA fun facts, learn about upcoming events or see updates on fellow alumni, simply click "Like" on the Marlinton Alumni Association page. We look forward to staying in touch with you as we also provide ways for you to share with us!



www.marlingtonalumni.org. Direct questions to marlingtonalumni@yahoo.com.

In a Bustling Metropolitan Area? Near a Cornfield? Right Next Door to Mom?



Where in the world are you? Send a photo of you (and your family, your pets or your car!) in front of anything that helps identify the area in which you live. Maybe it's a photo in front of the company you work for, the water tower identifying your town or even the street sign in your allotment - you decide!

We will post the wacky and the normal photos, the silly and the sane. Some may be used in future publications. You MUST include your name, class year and home address when you email them to: marlingtonalumni@yahoo.com. (Sorry, hard copies not accepted!)

We'll keep track of class participation, cities, states and more and let you know the stats. Where in the World Are You? We'd love to know!

Your MAA Board Members

Officers

Vondea (Bohaychyk) Sheaffer ('76) President, *Michelle (Vaughan) Bakan ('81) Vice President, Karen (Slabaugh) Humphries ('83) Secretary, Nancy (Phillips) Prueter ('72) Treasurer, William Liber ('65) Financial Advisor

Trustees

*SamBacon ('54), Brian Bradway ('84), Frank Carozzi ('83), David Erb ('81), Annabelle (Bloss) Fearon ('54), Karen (Zellers) Garra ('59), *Marsha (Rinehart) Graham ('70), *Julie Greiner ('01), *Mary (Yoder) Hilmer ('53), *Clyde Lepley ('68), Mary Lou (Biery) Muckley ('61), Martha (Dickerhoof) Palmer ('77), *Larry Ray ('78), *Dan Tolerton ('75)

*Denotes Scholarship Committee

Marlington Alumni Association
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www.marlingtonalumni.org
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We're Here
For You!

The Marlington Alumni Association (MAA) is comprised of more than 12,000 graduates and friends of Marlington High school, the former Marlboro High School and those students who graduated from Washington and Lexington Township Schools from 1958-1962. We provide financial assistance to deserving graduates in the form of scholarships and book grants. Established in 1989 the MAA is a Non-Profit, 501(c)(3) operating exclusively for charitable purposes under Ohio Non-Profit Corporation Law. Gifts to the MAA are tax deductible. All trustees and Officers of the Marlington Alumni Association are alumni and are volunteers.



**The Marlington
Alumni Association**

PLANTING ACORNS, GROWING OAKS