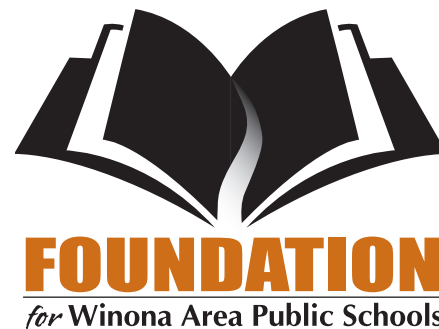


# The Foundation Files

September 2012 through August 2013



## The Foundation Board of Directors

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Shelley Milek, Executive Director

*Thanks  
to Retiring Directors  
Matt Reeck  
and Kim Renk!*

## From the Executive Director

Wow! What an exciting and fast paced year at the Foundation. It is amazing how the school year flew by as I "got my feet wet" in the Executive Director role. I have found myself so blessed to work with welcoming teachers and coaches, administration and Foundation Board of Directors who give of themselves every day for the benefit of the students and their continued enhanced education. I am in awe of how I find people in the community providing kind messages of support for me and the Foundation. I have seen how people truly know that a strong community starts out with the foundation of a strong educational school system.

Late August brought a bustling of staff to the opening day workshop at WSHS to highlight happenings for the 2012-2013 school year. The Foundation had the opportunity to work with Harry Kline of HBC, who was there to report on the event and the Winona Area Public Schools staff about the many amazing things the Foundation does to enrich and expand the educational opportunities for our students.

November brought us to our \$5000 Dare to Dream grant award. The Grants Committee combed through a multitude of innovative ideas to choose one of the stand out ideas, "The Outdoor Classroom", as this year's winner. Throughout the year, the Foundation awarded dozens of grants, managed multiple funds, purchased additional Smart Boards for WAPS, and processed scholarships for many deserving students.

We started the year on "Fire" as planning meetings began for our 2013 Fire and Ice Gala!! Committees formed, ideas generated and before you knew it, we had a solid plan towards a "hot night for a cool cause". This year's festivities of the Gala evening raised over \$33,000.

As the school year came to a close, the Foundation for WAPS provided grants and back packs to graduating seniors at their Senior Seminar. Scholarships were awarded at the WSHS Awards Night for deserving students to recognize their many achievements throughout their career. The Special Athletic Competition Fund provided an opportunity for many students to show off their athletic and team building abilities at the Special Athletic Competition event held at Saint Mary's University; and the annual Haake Poetry Competition awarded 10 cash scholarships to WSHS and WMS students for their amazing poetic skills.

Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for the wonderful support that you have provided to me, the Foundation, and our schools. I am so grateful and look forward to many more opportunities to expand and enrich education for our students in the Winona Area Public Schools.

– Shelley Milek, Executive Director



Executive Director,  
Shelley Milek

## Highlights of the Year

The 2012-2013 year was very active and eventful for the Foundation. Some of the highlights include:

- 35 classroom and school grants
- 58 Donor Advised Funds
- Purchase of 2 additional Smart Boards for Classrooms
- \$5,000 Dare to Dream Grant for "The Outdoor Classroom"
- 23 Scholarships from Funds
- Special Athletic Competition
- (2) \$500 Teacher Grants to use for education materials
- 10 scholarships
- Over \$335,000 has been directed this year through the Foundation to projects that enhance public education in Winona.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity and kind support. Your help has made possible all of the special programs, projects, field trips and speakers listed in this newsletter- and much, much more. Gratitude goes out to each of you and I hope you will contact us with any questions or ideas for the Foundation and our schools.



Special Athletic Competition

# The Foundation for WAPS

## 2012 Dare to Dream Award Winners

The Foundation for WAPS Dare to Dream Award is an annual \$5000 innovation grant which was implemented to foster the creative spirit within the District. **This year's winners are Dwayne Voegeli and Tom Sanvik of the Winona Senior High School for their Outdoor Classroom Project.**

Dwayne and Tom's request was to offer an "Outdoor Classroom" at the Winona Senior High School that could take advantage of the environs around us. It was their dream to offer a curriculum that our students would be encouraged to continue lifetime activities available in the Winona area once they graduate. Some of the outdoor curriculum activities they hope to include are canoeing, kayaking, biking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, fishing, rock climbing, and many others.

Dwayne and Tom want the students to take advantage of the many natural resources next to the Winona Senior High School to be used as part of the Physical Education curriculum. In addition, they would love to offer students the opportunity to get involved with outdoor activities, do some learning research on Lake Winona, and possibly form a paddle club. They found plenty of research and documents to support when students are engaged in outdoor education and physical activities, they achieve higher academic performance. By being awarded this grant, they plan to purchase canoes, kayaks, life jackets, tents, paddles and bicycles, which will make outdoor education a reality for the students at the Winona Senior High School. Congratulations Dwayne and Tom and thank you for dreaming to do more for your students!!!



(L-R) Jen Anderson, Board of Directors;  
Kelly Halvorsen, Principal;  
Dwayne Voegeli, WSHS Instructor;  
Tom Sanvik, WSHS Instructor;  
Brad Berzinski, Athletic Director.

## Annual Haake Poetry Prizes Awarded at WSHS & WMS

The annual Haake Poetry Prizes were presented on May 22, 2013 to WSHS and WMS students. The winners were anonymously selected by an esteemed panel of judges including: **Chris Livingston**, literary expert and owner of The Bookshelf, **Carol Borzyskowski**, 25 year Library Associate and original initiator of the Poet Laureate Program in Winona, and **Emilio DeGrazia**, Professor Emeritus of English at WSU and current Poet Laureate of the City of Winona. The judges from this year's competition noted that there were many exemplary submissions and encouraged all to continue writing and working on their craft.



**WSHS Winners:** (L-R) – McKennah Spiten,  
Will Krageschmidt, Dot Armstrong, Ellie Williams,  
Taylor Soronno



**WMS Winners:** (L-R) – Piper Thompson Abigail Larson,  
Brianna Cumiskey, Alea Machajewski



**Judges:** Judges (L-R) -  
Emilio DeGrazia, Chris Livingston  
and Carol Borzyskowski.

### WSHS First Place Award Winners

**Taylor Soronno:**  
"The Suffering Poet"

**Will Krageschmidt:**  
"Variations on Modern America"

### WSHS Second Place Award Winners

**Dot Armstrong:** "Ode to My Feet"

**McKennah Spiten:** "Daisies"

**Ellie Williams:** "Doodling at its Finest"

### WMS First Place Award Winners

**Piper Thompson:** "Imagination"

**Abigail Larson:** "Cello"

### WMS Second Place Award Winners

**Alea Machajewski:**  
"My Grandfather's Vase"

**Piper Thompson:** "Sunshine"  
**Brianna Cumiskey:** "Lost Hope"

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is pleased to sponsor educational enrichment programs such as this for students. We are grateful for the generosity of **Dr. Paul Haake** for underwriting this program. We Also wish to thank **WSHS teacher Laura Armstrong** and **WMS teacher Eileen Dahlin** and the WAPS Language Arts teachers, our esteemed panel of judges, as well as the over 100 student contestants for their support and participation.

## In Appreciation of Dr. Paul Haake

Dr. Paul Haake, most distinguished research chemist, educator and WSHS alumnus, always kept his hometown of Winona close to his heart. Seven years ago, he initiated a wonderful program through the Foundation for WAPS to honor the memory of his father, Arnold, who was known for his love of poetry during his WSHS years. The result was the annual Haake Poetry Prize that Paul generously funded, which is awarded each year to five promising poets at the WSHS and five poets at WMS via a writing competition. The result has been over 60 winning applicants whose lives have been significantly touched by the recognition and encouragement that this award provides. WAPS lost a friend due to Dr. Paul Haake's passing last year, but his legacy will live on to benefit WAPS students for years to come.





# Fire & Ice Gala Raises \$33,000

After the last candle was lit, Visions Event Center glowed with the luminescence of celebration as focus was given to our students and staff's splendor of art displayed in our Gallery 861. The Foundation for Winona Area Public School's Fire and Ice Gala attendees were able to peruse the Winona Fare as lucky bidders went home with a treasure trove of donated items from our Silent Auction. Twelve friends pooled their resources and were awarded the cuisine of a scrumptious Italian hand-made meal prepared and served by the Foundation's Board of Directors. Viva l'Italia!!! Two specialty dessert tables offered delectable mouth-watering chocolate delights, airy cream meringue pies, whipped peaked Baked Alaskas, and a merriment of sweet truffles to entice an array of tastes. Foundation supporters marveled at the centerpiece art up for bid, which included handcrafted iron works and a sparkle of mercury glass ice.

The 2013 Fire and Ice Gala was a community in celebration of the Foundation and schools, with a common goal to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools by supporting innovative programming, projects and technology. Students offered a dramatic touch to the evening as they hosted attendees to the evening's events providing a symphony of harmonious orchestra sounds, and offered unique blends of styling vocals, which echoed throughout the affair.

As the night drew to a soft glow of closure, the Foundation celebrated the opportunity to embrace our schools and students, and raised over \$33,000 to help continue to enhance our goals. **We look forward in celebration of our next year's Gala, on March 15, 2014, and hope to see you there.**



Next year's Gala is on:  
March 15, 2014

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# Donations to Special Programs

**2012 Fire & Ice Gala Donors**  
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**WSHS Scholarship**  
**Xcel Energy Scholarship**

# A Special Thank You

A special thank you to the Board of Directors who donated personally to put on the "2013 Fire and Ice Board of Directors Meal", hosted at the home of Chuck and Laura Eddy, for the Silent Auction winning bidders. Money, time and talents were appreciated by the Foundation for WAPS!

Chris Streukens	Dave Mertes	Megan Biesanz
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**Parents of Dr. Scott & Carmen Hannon**  
Dr. Scott & Carmen Hannon

# Honorariums

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Susan & Jon Eddy  
Shelley & John Milek

**Jane Dietrich**  
Jim & Shannon Hanzel

**Susan Eddy's Retirement**  
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Gayle Goetzman  
Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz  
Shelley Milek

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Eleanor Griesel  
Don & Ruth Marg

**Jim & Shannon Hanzel**  
Donald & Sandra Curtin

**Donna Helble's Birthday**  
Eric & Kari Johnsrud

**Karen Hoover**  
John & Susan Eddy  
Jim & Shannon Hanzel  
Jon & Ruthanne  
Weispfenning

**Arik Jacquart's 21st Birthday**  
Michael & Teri Jacquart

**Ruth & Don Marg's 60th Wedding Anniversary**  
Shannon & Jim Hanzel

**Shelley Milek**  
Dan & Pat Cieminski  
Daniel & Jennie Florness

**Jerry Miller**  
Judy Bodway  
Nancy Denzer & Maynard  
Johnson  
Monica Hennessy-Mohan & Edward Mohan  
Winona Fire Fighters

**Linda Olson's Retirement**  
Susan & John Eddy  
Marie & Keith Holmquist  
Jim & Shannon Hanzel  
Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz  
Shelley & John Milek

**Chris Overhaug's Retirement**  
ECFE

**Diane Raddatz Retirement**  
Jon & Ruthanne  
Weispfenning  
Jim & Shannon Hanzel

**Carol Taylor Retirement**  
John & Susan Eddy  
John & Shelley Milek  
Jon & Ruthanne  
Weispfenning

**Jim Yahnke**  
John & Susan Eddy

*We have made every effort to provide an accurate listing of gifts received between 9/11/12 and 9/1/2013. However, if you find an error/omission, please contact the Foundation office at 507-494-1004.*

# Leave A Legacy... Through the Foundation's Lowell Nelson Society



**Please consider the Foundation when you are updating your Will or developing your estate and retirement plans. Our office is here to help you make a difference in the lives that follow.**

In 1997, the Foundation Board of Directors established the Lowell Nelson Society in honor of former District 861 Superintendent Lowell Nelson. Membership in the Society is accorded to those who help build the Foundation's endowment by naming the Foundation, as a beneficiary in their wills, qualified pension plans (including IRAs, 401K's, Keoghs, etc.), insurance policies, trusts, or other types of planned gifts.

**To date, Society Founders include:**

Judy Bodway	Susan Hoffe*	Russ and Wanda Rattunde
Susan and John Eddy	Neva King*	Nancy and Jim Reynolds
Mark Godsey	Harland and Pauline Knight	Chuck and Judy Shepard
Norma Grausnick	Ruth Kottschade*	Barbara Schilling*
Harriet Green	Tom and Leone Mausycki	Sharon Suchla
Scott and Carmen Hannon	Roger and Ramona Metz	Rita Sullivan*
Jim and Shannon Hanzel	Joliene and LaVerne Olson	Linda A. Wood
Donna Helble	Linda and Don Olson	Pete and Joyce Woodworth

(\*deceased)

# Teacher & Staff Payroll Deduction Participants

Heartfelt thanks to the nearly 100 WAPS staff members who participated in the Payroll Deduction Program benefiting the Foundation. Their support provided over \$15,000 for our students and we are so grateful!

The following WAPS employees support the Foundation through the District's Payroll Deduction Plan (Rec'd up to 8/31/13):

Courtney Anderson	Linda Gale	Lori Krumholz	Patricia Norman	Anne Simon-Debroux
Shannon Bechly	Timothy Gleason	Susan Larsen	Steven Norman	Joleen Smith
Frederick Blacklock	Katrina Glick	Ann Marie Lawlor	Susan Ogren	Katy Smith
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Timothy Firstbrook	Terrell Kroening	Jenny Nettles	Melissa Shields	

## 2012-13 Grant Awards

Elementary & WMS 2013 Young Writer's Conference	WALC "Remembering the Dakota War"- field trip to Fort Snelling and the MN History Center	WMS 7th Grade Guthrie Field Trip to "A Christmas Carol"	WSHS Challenge Econ/Stats Field Trip to Mall of America	Teacher Grants- Mary Gappel- Jefferson and Tim Firstbrook at WSHS (Chosen Awarded Names from Payroll Deduction Pool)
Jefferson Elementary STEM 4th Grade field trip to Science Museum of Minnesota	WALC Stained Glass Project	WMS 8th Grade Quarry Hill Field Trip	WSHS Concordia Language Village	Dare to Dream- WSHS Outdoor Classroom Program- Science, PE and Environmental Education
Madison School Kimochi Educator Tool Kit to be shared with other elem. schools	W-K Artists in Residence- American Traditional Dance and Music	WMS 7th & 8th Grade Trills & Thrills Music Festival	WSHS DCD Field Trip to Science Museum of LaCrosse	SMART Board Grants to WAPS- Purchase of two Smart Boards for WAPS
Rollingstone School and MN Marine Art Museum Partnership K-4 Field Trip and --Learning experience with new iPads	W-K, Rollingstone, & Madison Elementaries Arts in Education	WSHS "Bike It Up" Day to support alternative transportation & fun	WSHS Learn Stained Glass Project	
Science Lab Equipment to be shared between WALC and Family & Children's Center	WMS Kalahari 8th Grade Band Festival Field Trip	WSHS AP Lit and Comp Class- Guthrie Field Trip	WSHS & WMS Misato Japan Trip	
WALC PE Bowling	WMS 5th Grade Field Trip to Minnesota Zoo	WSHS Diversity Assembly "We Believe" poetry - Artist in Residence	WSHS Orchestra NYC Field Trip	
WALC Positive Behavior Interventions & Support Systems	WMS 6th Grade Environmental Education Field Trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	WSHS Multicultural Day- "We Believe" UW LaCrosse	WSHS Physiology and Anatomy Field Trip- Science Museum- "Body Worlds"	
	WMS 6th Grade Field Trip to the Capitol	WSHS Bookmaking Project	WSHS & WALC Senior Seminar	
		WSHS Career Expo 2013- Partnership with Chamber of Commerce	WSHS Short Film Production Project	

## Expanding Education Opportunities

in New York City

With the help of supplementing grants from the Foundation, **WSHS Orchestra students** immersed themselves with an opportunity of culture and knowledge as they sauntered through the streets of New York City. Students became engaged in the history at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, drank in sounds of the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall, attended a Broadway Musical with the masses, and took time for reflection and history at the 911 Memorial site. With a newfound wealth of history, culture and knowledge, the students all arrived safely back on the streets of Winona, excited to share their stories of New York.





# Dancing with the Winona Stars

## Dances for Gym Enhancements

Dancing with the Winona Stars are at it again along with our own Winhawk Warriors, Sean Bowers, Loren Liming, and Nick Trenkamp, who plan to move to a rhythm and a wiggle. This year's Dancing with the Winona Stars Funds held at the Foundation will go towards gym enhancements, which will include money towards a new sound system for the school. In talking with Brad Berzinski, Athletic Director for WAPS, he was surprised "at the sticker shock of the project", with costs of over \$30,000. He hopes to raise at least half of the cost through fundraising events such as this.

Whisperings through the District tell me that another group from WAPS, The Stemtastics, Jessica Schmidt, Sara Fellman, Stacy Rasmussen, Becky Woodworth, Angela Oswald, and Amber Barnard, will try their rhythm while dancing for funds for an Experimental Learning Program at Jefferson School.

**The 5th Annual Dancing with the Winona Stars will take place Tuesday, December 31, 2013 at Winona State University McGown Gymnasium.** Dancing with the Winona Stars is very passionate about raising funds and awareness of the 15 local charities that were chosen for their stars. The stars and groups of stars will train with professional dance instructors for several months. Votes can be cast at any time for \$1.00 per vote, up to the end of the event. Tickets for the event are \$40 per person. For more information please contact [dwws2013@gmail.com](mailto:dwws2013@gmail.com). Good Luck to our WAPS Dancers!!!!



Sean Bowers and Nick Trenkamp  
Not Pictured: Loren Liming

## 2013 Legacy Award

Presented to Merchants Bank and Winona National Bank



The Foundation honored two outstanding community Leaders for their dedication to the Foundation, its schools and community support. **This year's Legacy Awards went to Merchants Bank and Winona National Bank.** We marvel at their selfless unwaivering commitment to the Winona Community and Winona Area Public Schools.

## Retiring Board of Directors: Matt Reeck

Matt Reeck served on the Foundation Board of Directors since 2010. Matt contributed his talents on the Finance and Investment Committees. He also showed us his light step in last year's Dancing with the Winona Stars where his team, Halloween Machine, helped to raise over \$8000 for the Bruce Reeck Fund held here at the Foundation. Some of those funds went towards a new score board for the WSHS gymnasium. Matt also helped to organize an alumni basketball tournament to bring in additional dollars into the Bruce Reeck Fund. Although Matt is no longer in an official capacity on the Board of Directors, he continues to support and work to help Funds grow at the Foundation. Thank you for your years of service Matt, and your continued dedication!



## Inside the Alumni Ring

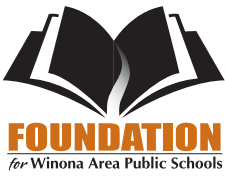
As the Foundation dabbles within the alumni ring, things come full circle for one of our WSHS 1976 graduates. The Foundation was contacted by a gem of a citizen who was in possession of a ring found years ago at the Rosedale Mall in the Twin Cities. Due to the busy throws of hectic lives, the ring had been through several moves throughout the years, and was tossed in a box and long forgotten. Through some detective work on the part of Foundation and friends, we were able to find our 1976 graduate and owner of the garnet class ring adorned with band instruments and initials. Over thirty-five years later, the ring made its way back to Winona to find the hand of our thrilled 1976 graduate. The generous ring discoverer wrote "I guess this ring was destined to only be lost once, thanks for sharing a smile moment with me". The Foundation was ecstatic to play a part in this reunion!!



## The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools Celebrates...WSHS GRADUATES!

The end of the school year brought the Foundation amidst the excitement of "Seniors" as they prepared for graduation and their future at the "Senior Seminar". Grants from the Foundation helped support the day with bounds of information in tow. As each graduate goes out into the world in the pursuit of reaching dreams and personal goals, we hope that you will join us in acknowledging the many generous Foundation donors in our community. As you now become one of the proud WSHS alum, know that your support of the Foundation and its programs will help us to continue providing enriched programming for WSHS students for years to come. **Best wishes to each of you in the future...**





## Mission

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is an **independent, non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization** established in 1991 and funded entirely by community and business supporters of education in Winona. The single purpose of the Foundation is to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools by supporting important programs and projects that would otherwise not be funded through normal district resources.

## Community & Alumni Support

Community and alumni support has been invaluable in the many projects that have benefited our students, such as field trips, student speakers and enrichment programs. The Foundation also holds over 56 donor advised funds created by individual supporters to benefit specific educational causes of interest, such as the, SE MN Science Fair Fund, student scholarship funds, classroom technology funds, and funds for student learning trips.

### How You Can Help

Donations can be made online ([www.foundationwaps.org](http://www.foundationwaps.org)), in person (at our office at WMS) or by mail: 1570 Homer Rd, Winona, MN 55987. Gifts are frequently made in honor or in memory of a special person or event and can also be provided via a Will, pension plan or other types of planned giving.

For more information, please call the Foundation at 507.494.1004 or email: [support@foundationwaps.org](mailto:support@foundationwaps.org).

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

### *Mark your Calendars!*

**March 15, 2014:**

Join us at the **Foundation's Gala** to be held at Visions Event Center!

**December 31, 2013:**

**The 5th Annual Dancing with the Winona Stars** will take place at Winona State University McGown Gymnasium!

Over the past two years, **more than a quarter of a million dollars have been directed through the Foundation to projects and programs that have enhanced education in the Winona Area Public Schools through the Foundation.**

Our sincere thanks to the many generous and caring donors who have made this possible.

***Sincere thanks to each of you for your support!***

1570 Homer Road  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-494-1004



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