

ALUMNI *Dream Catcher*

SPRING 2014

**Bill C. Fox Engineering Scholarship Recipients
meet and honor the man who
changed their lives.**

Story on pages 4 and 5



Letter from Foundation Director

Julie DeVries



I've been in this new position for six months now and I am amazed every day at all the blessings that come with living in this community. For 25 years I worked for the Forest City

Community School District. I'm sure there are many alumni who remember me from the front or guidance offices of the high school.

Last September, I was presented with an opportunity to try out the corporate setting. Thinking perhaps I might like the challenge of something completely different, I pursued the new job and walked away from the world I'd known for half of my life. It didn't take me very long to realize that when one's heart and soul are invested in kids, walking away isn't something that is easily done.

When former Foundation director, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, made the decision to join the RV industry, I knew that if it was possible, I needed to return to working with and for our students. Since I started as the Forest City Education Foundation Director in January, it's been a crazy ride with so many amazing things happening. You will read of our academic banquet, senior awards night, John Deere green at the Pentagon and a very special event honoring a 92 year old gentleman, Bill C. Fox. We've also had some very generous alumni and community members step forward and start scholarships for Forest City students.

I look forward to getting to know more of you as we work to grow the Foundation and fulfill the mission of providing college and other educational opportunities for Forest City students.

Board Members

Raymond Beebe, **President**
Steve Lovik, **Vice President '73**
Darwin Lehmann, **Chairman**
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Nancy Olson
Duane Polsdofer

Randy Pruisner
Shawn Miller
Rick Skjeie '89
Linda (Damm) Smith, '73
Liz (Sorenson) Smith, '95
Marcia Tweeten
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Give to Forest City Education Foundation!

Consider making a gift to Forest City Education Foundation. By donating you are contributing to scholarship and educational opportunities provided to Forest City students.

There are several ways you can donate!

Fund a scholarship

A minimum of \$300 per year will fund a scholarship. You can name this scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one. The scholarship will be awarded Senior Awards Night in May. The donor will be invited to present the award.

Donate to the Forest City Education Foundation's General Fund

This helps to fund publications, alumni events, HOBY Leadership Conference, Academic Banquet and John Baylor ACT Test Preparation Course.

Endow a Scholarship

We ask the minimum to endow a scholarship of \$20,000 (to be paid within 5 years). You can name this scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one. The scholarship will be awarded Senior Awards Night in May. The donor will be invited to present the award. This will ensure a scholarship for years to come.

Other Ways to Give

Planned Giving	Annual Gifts
Honorary & Memorial	Testamentary Trusts
Gifts-cash	Securities
Real or Personal Property	Bequests
Life Insurance Agreement	
Class Reunions & Groups	

Checks can be sent to:
Forest City Education Foundation
PO Box 270
Forest City, IA 50436
www.forestcityeducation.org

Academic Banquet

Forest City Education Foundation honored 71 students, grades nine through twelve on April 3rd, 2014 at the Fifth Annual Academic Banquet. 250 students, families, staff, board members were in attendance as these students were recognized for their academic excellence.

Students received Academic Letters based on meeting two of the following criteria: a student must be in the top 7% of class and must have an ITED National Percentile Rank of 85 or higher on the Reading Comprehension, Math Total and Science tests. Students must have a composite score on the ACT of 27 or higher; a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher; and/or attendance of 97% or higher.



Erica Hanna, '99 graduate of Forest City High School, delivered an entertaining message on following dreams and not letting fear stand as an obstacle for opportunities.

Director Julie DeVries shares, "We are very happy to honor the academic efforts of our high school students with this evening. We celebrate our athletes and fine arts participants when

seasons finish with recognition and awards. This is a nice event to celebrate students who also focus on succeeding academically."



Class of 2017
(above)



Class of 2016
(right)



Class of 2015
(left)

Class of 2014
(right)



Photos courtesy of the Forest City Summit

Beloved Teacher: Virginia Smith

By: Alice Lewellen

Virginia Smith, a Forest City Education icon who first came to Forest City in 1954, left Forest City the end of January to be nearer her son Jeff and his family in Texas. Virginia celebrated her 93rd birthday at the end of March and had been living independently in her home until her move.



It was hard for Virginia to say good bye to Forest City and hard for many community members to say good bye to her. Virginia and her husband Fred Smith were long time teachers in the Forest City School District, Virginia teaching first grade for many years and Fred teaching middle school social studies. Fred was well-known for his leadership in Boys State as well as serving as a coach here in Forest City. On a trip for Boys State, Fred died as the result of a car accident in Indiana. Virginia continued her teaching career after Fred's death teaching for 22 years in the Forest City School system. Both of the Smiths were named to the Forest City Education Hall of Fame.

Virginia went to high school in Greeley, Iowa, and graduated from Upper Iowa University. She taught previously at McCallisberg and West Union where she met Fred. Most of her career she taught first or second grade.

Virginia admits she was a bit partial to her male students. At the first grade level, boys just seemed "easier to win over," Virginia commented. Many girls were still quite timid at that age, but Virginia said she did keep a close eye out for little girls who seemed afraid especially at recess time. Over the years, Virginia has stayed in touch with many of her former students. As she noted, she always loved kids and this led to many lasting relationships.

Virginia was a long time donor to the Forest City Education Foundation giving a scholarship for many years in Fred's name.

Virginia was an excellent role model to younger teachers, exemplifying professionalism in her dress and conduct. Long time colleague and friend, Dona Paulson said, "Virginia had a unique way of teaching children to read and I always admired how she did it. Think of the numbers of young readers a teacher can produce in 22 years!" Virginia was always proud of creating a love for reading in so many youngsters.

Fred and Virginia have one son, Jeff, a daughter-in-law, Kay, (both Forest City graduates), two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They all live in the Dallas area which prompted Virginia's move.

Forest City Education Foundation Honors

Bill C. Fox

By Raymond Beebe

On May 15th, 2014, the Forest City Education Foundation hosted a banquet in Ames, Iowa, honoring Bill Fox, a major benefactor of the Foundation. Mr. Fox for the last 15 years has provided scholarships to graduates of Forest City High School who go on to major in engineering at Iowa State University.

The scholarships pay for a significant portion of the recipient's tuition throughout the four

years normally required to obtain an engineering degree. All past recipients of the Fox Scholarships who either obtained an ISU engineering degree or are still enrolled at Iowa State majoring in engineering were invited to the event and all but one attended. These young men coming from as far away as Houston, Texas, were all eager to attend and pay tribute to Mr. Fox who most of them had not previously met.



He still has relatives in the area and his niece, Cindy Mary, has awarded the scholarship at Senior Awards

Night the last several years. Bill recalls that his family was quite poor and a college education seemed out of reach. However, he fondly remembers some of his teachers at Forest City who mentored



him and helped convince him that he should give college a try. So in the fall of 1940 with a \$25 scholarship and very little else, Bill set off for Ames. He worked hard and persevered obtaining his degree in Electrical Engineering in 1944. In 1952, he took over

the reins of a troubled company, Lakeland Engineering Equipment Company. Today, Lakeland is a large Midwest distributor of industrial electrical equipment and products and serves the needs of electrical customers in at least 14 states.

Raymond Beebe and Julie DeVries, President and Director of the Foundation hosted the banquet. Each of the past recipients spoke, shared about their careers and often very emotionally expressed their gratitude to Mr. Fox, noting that the scholarship allowed them to graduate debt free. One recipient, with tears in his eyes, told Mr. Fox that he had provided this assistance



“when you didn't even know me.” Mr. Fox addressed the young men with some good advice on how to succeed in the business world. Mr. Fox also explained how he had wanted to “pay it forward” assisting Forest City graduates to have the same opportunity he had. “This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Ray and me and all these great guys! There were many times during the evening where Bill was overwhelmed by the success

stories that were shared with him. It was an evening I'll never forget”, Julie DeVries, Director, Forest City Education Foundation said

Dr. Sarah Rajala, Dean of the ISU College of Engineering, was also in attendance and expressed her gratitude for Mr. Fox's support of “these outstanding young men” and the College of Engineering.



Other highlights of the evening included presentation of a beautiful book, created by Julie DeVries, providing detailed information about each of the recipients and comments from each expressing their gratitude to Mr. Fox. Also, Ken Kleemeier, speaking on behalf of the recipients who had graduated from ISU and were into their careers, announced that this group (to be joined by the others upon their graduation) was creating a scholarship through the Foundation in honor of Mr. Fox with the details to be worked out with Mr. Beebe and Mrs. DeVries.



Shown in the picture with Mr. Fox and Mr. Beebe, on the front page, were the Fox Scholarship recipients in attendance at the banquet. Left to right, Brian Brcka and Jeff Robson, (2013), Ken Kleemeier (2000), Mr. Beebe, Eric Nelson (1999), Mr. Fox, Brad Heitland (2001), Sam Oanes (2010), Joe Charlson (2002) August Nelson (2011) Garrett Fjeld (2014) and Logan Hobbs (2014). Not able to attend was Tom Hromatka (1998).

While historically one Fox Scholarship has been awarded annually, through Mr. Fox's generosity two scholarships were awarded in both 2013 and 2014.

Class Reunion Information

40th Class Reunion - Class of 1974

Saturday, September 20th
 Bear Creek Golf Course, Forest City
 Contact: Marcia (Anderson) Korte
 Phone: 970-241-1748
 Email: rrkorte@msn.com
 Find Marcia Korte on Facebook and/or look for the Class of 1974 Facebook page.

Class of 1999!!

This summer we are having our 15 year class reunion on Saturday, July 26th. We will be meeting at Pammel Park at noon for a few rounds of kick ball. You can form your own team but be willing to add more for those who do not have a team. After a couple of rounds, we will meet back at the bowling alley at 6:00 p.m. for a taco bar dinner and light dessert, bowling and karaoke in the bar. Please send an RSVP to Karey Alvarado, kareyl@hotmail.com prior to July 10th. Your official RSVP will be a check/cash for \$12/person or \$20/couple for attending the dinner. Bowling and drinks will be on your own.

Class of 1989 - 25 Years!

Friday, July 18, 2014 - 7:00-?
 Cocktail Get-Together @ VIP Lounge
 Saturday, July 19th 2014
 Class of 1989 Celebration Night
 6:00 - ? at Walking Eagle Ranch
 1970 340th St.(1.5 East of Bear Creek Golf Course)
 Cost for the evening (non-refundable):

\$25/person, \$40/couple
 Price included dinner (buffet style catered by the Den at Bear Creek), use of Walking Eagle Ranch (made as a charitable donation for Youth Pheasants Forever), and towards the Class of 1989 Memorial Fund.

This is an adult only evening.
 Bring your own beverages and lawn chairs.
 RSPV by June 27th, 2014 through payment - checks payable to Class of 1989. Send to Jeanna (Jenkins) Bina, 17121 350th St., Forest City, Iowa. 50436

Look for the Forest City Education Foundation at the Alumni Golf Tournament on July 26th!

John Deere Green at the Pentagon - Matt Jefson Remembers His Roots

By Julie DeVries



Lt. Col. Matthew P. Jefson graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in June 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering and received his Master of Science degree in Engineering Management in March 2005 from the Air

Force Institute of Technology. Matt married 23 days after graduation and has lived in 10 different places taking his family with him to each location.

The morning I called Matt, he and his daughter Hannah were on their way to a college visit in Roanoke, Virginia. As we visited and I learned more about him, he laughed and said his daughter was probably learning some new things about him too. Considering the fact that Lt. Col. Matthew P. Jefson works at the Pentagon, I quickly found out when visiting with him that Saturday morning, he is firmly rooted by his small town, mid-west upbringing and credits that lifestyle to his success in the military.

I asked Matt why he wanted to go to the Air Force Academy and his initial reasoning might not be what one would think. Matt was scared to death of any kind of debt. His father had lost his farm and when Matt shared his concerns about college debt, his dad asked him if he had ever considered a service academy. "I didn't really know what I was getting into when I pursued it". Matt had high enough grades and "the good Lord blessed me with enough smarts to get in". His congressional nomination came from Charles Grassley who called Matt at the high school on April 25th, his dad's birthday. Matt left Forest City on June 27th for six weeks of basic training for the lower cadets. The upper class cadets run the basic training so that was something to look forward to while he was the freshman going through grueling basic training. Matthew has been deployed four times, the first time to Saudi Arabia and worked as one of the first engineers to build a new base. The second time to Iraq

in 2006, was to work on large construction projects such as rebuilding a runway and new airfield and again the fourth time deployed to the Persian Gulf region doing large troop and base constructions, building buildings.

The most challenging deployment was his third to Iraq where he was given the responsibility of building the prisons for the POW's. He was managing a billion dollar construction project with a staff of two or three, working 16-18 hours a day, seven days a week trying to get the sites done. "This was a very stressful deployment for many reasons. Moving all over Iraq was a challenge because Iraq wasn't a very nice place to be at that time."

Towards the end of this tour, "we had all these POWs so we had to figure out what to do with them. Some of them were not bad people but were just doing things they weren't suppose to be doing." The General came to Matt and asked him to help figure out how to teach the Iraqi men useful skills so they could go back into their communities and be productive. The U.S. soldiers taught the POW's construction skills so they could rebuild their homes as many had been destroyed during the war. They built little houses they would live in, compounds and huts. Matt shared, "We worked hard to set up scenarios to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people so they could learn and go back to their communities and make a difference."

Matthew credits his parents, home, school and Forest City to the man he is and his success in the military. "Most people look back on their lives and say they wish they would've listened to their parents.

I'm not one of those folks. I would say to this day that my best friend is my dad. They've been so supportive of me no matter what I did." As he's gotten older Matt realizes the diversity and the opportunities he had growing up was something he took for granted. "I was a decent athlete but because of the size of Forest City, I had the opportunity to do the other things, as well and I know if I would've grown up in a bigger school I wouldn't have had those opportunities. I have a much greater appreciation for sports, athletics, drama, music and all those things made me a more well-rounded individual. You never know how the experience of fighting through a tough game will help you some time in life." Matt remembers the pride he always felt from being a Forest City Indian and the identity that came with that. From the time he was in kindergarten and his dad took him to the football

games until he graduated, he was an Indian.

Jefson inspects a crack in a runway in Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Brian Ferguson)

Thinking back to one of his military training exercises

at the Academy, Matt remembered a speech he was given about all the responsibility that went along with the equipment they were going to be using and training on. He shared with the training officer that he never had to sign any agreements when he was farming and using all that expensive equipment. Growing up in a rural setting he was always given the opportunity to work with equipment, learned how to get things done and figured out solutions to problems. The work ethic and pride of ownership that goes into farming is one Matt is grateful for as well as the small town atmosphere. "I don't



remember ever locking a vehicle when I was a kid. We take so much for granted living in Forest City".

One thing that has kept Matt

connected with the farm is his hobby of building paper tractors. (picture above) Someone told him building a paper tractor couldn't be done so that was all it took for Matt to put that challenge into action and for 18 years he has been perfecting the craft. Throughout his deployments, he was able to take the colored paper and Elmer's glue with him in his backpack and it was a cheap and easy hobby to move around. "It gave me a release and would take me home somewhat". Matt has built over 160 different models over the years and it takes him about a month to build a single tractor. Most are matchbox size but one larger tractor took him nearly four months to complete.

One of my final questions to Matthew Jefson was whether he had any advice for our young people today. He responded saying "I think the best thing I can say is to stay true to yourself. I remember someone my senior year at the Air Force Academy telling me that I would be very successful if I would always remember where I came from. Working at the United States Pentagon I wear my uniform every day. I have to walk a ways so I wear my civilian clothes into the Pentagon and then change. I'm the only person who works at the Pentagon that wears a John Deere hat into work. I've always tried to stay true to myself, stayed that farm kid from Iowa and have always looked at life from that perspective."

Matt wanted to make sure he shared that during every deployment he has always gotten a care package at some point with most of them being from his former teacher, Marla Betz. Every care package was so special and tailored specifically to him. "When you are in that environment, little things like that mean so much".

Thank you Lt. Col. Matthew P. Jefson for serving our country!

Dennis K. Branstad - Class of 1957 - Establishes Scholarships

by Julie DeVries

Recently, I've had the pleasure of visiting with a 1957 Alum and new scholarship donor to the Forest City Education Foundation, Dennis Branstad. Dennis shared "I have had a WONDERFUL career and have worked with many great people from 1961 to now." Through our communication in establishing these two scholarships, I've gotten to know much about his roots in the Forest City/ Leland area as well as where he has been since he left Forest City in 1957. Dennis goes on to say, "This farm boy from Iowa has been very blessed."

Dennis was born and raised on a farm east of Leland, one that was purchased by his grandfather around 1905. This farm is still owned and operated by the 4th generation direct descendants of the original owner.

Dennis attended the Leland Elementary School for grades 1 - 4. He feels he had excellent teachers who were capable of teaching multiple grades in each classroom. He then continued his education in Forest City. He rode the bus each day from the farm and upon returning home, would begin the chores of milking cows and caring for their many farm animals.

Because of his farm background, Dennis joined FFA and agriculture as a freshman in high school. However, his Forest City High School Mathematics teacher, Mrs. Helen Brown, urged him to take more mathematics courses and encouraged him to focus on science and mathematics. Dennis and Mrs. Brown became long time friends, following her advice for many years.

After graduating, Dennis enrolled at Iowa State University, majoring in Mathematics, graduating in 1961. He was commissioned as an Air Force Officer after fulfilling the 4-year ROTC requirements. Dennis went to work for Western Electric in Kansas City in a quality control group for a department making silicon alloy diodes for ATT telephone systems.

In 1961, Dennis received notice from the Air Force to report to Fort Meade, Maryland, where he joined the Mathematics Research Division of a Department of Defense Agency. After three years in the Air Force, he was hired as a civilian in the Speech Research Division and later in the Computer Science and Computer Security Divisions of that Agency.

In 1967, Dennis was awarded a fellowship to attend ISU in the Computer Science Department where he received an MS in 1968. He continued at ISU as a Research and Teaching Assistant in Computer Science and received a PhD in 1970.

In December 1970, Dennis and Martha Marks were married.

Martha had also received her PhD in Computer Science and became a Professor of Computer Science at Iowa State University.

Dennis and his wife moved to Beltsville, Maryland, in 1971 where each worked for several Federal organizations in various Computer Science specialty areas. They both taught part-time at the University of Maryland as Adjunct Professors in the evening until their first daughter was born.

Dennis joined the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg, MD in 1973 where he started a Computer Security Technology program focusing on developing standards for protecting valuable and sensitive information in computer networks, receiving a Department of Commerce gold medal for his work in this field.



After retiring from the Federal Government in 1994, he joined Trusted Information Systems (TIS) as a director of cryptographic technology research where he worked for his wife who had previously joined the company as a VP and director of research. He won several research grants and received several patents in computer security and digital cryptography while at TIS.

Dennis and his wife moved their primary residence to Austin, Texas in 1998 when the TIS Company was sold. They continue to spend winters in Austin and summers in Maryland and Delaware, close to their two daughters and families including six grandchildren.

Dennis still visits his sisters and their families living in the Leland and Forest City area. He continues his interest in farming as manager of a farm just south of Leland. His father purchased the farm in the early 1950's, farmed it for many years, and built a Cross that still stands on the hill east of highway 69. Dennis also continues his interest in computer security as a guest researcher at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD where he previously had worked.

Dennis is pleased to be able to provide scholarships to Iowa State University in his and his father, Rudolph W. Branstad, names. He appreciates and thanks all the excellent teachers that he had in the Leland and Forest City School systems and the school administrators that provided an excellent learning environment. His life has been filled with wonderful educational and career opportunities and he recognizes that his start and roots are right here in our community.

Farewell to Beloved Teachers - A Walk with Forest City Schools Retirees

by Alice Lewellen and Julie DeVries

Forest City Community Schools has a wealth of knowledge and years of service retiring this year. Collectively these eleven fine educators have taught in the Forest City school system for over 300 years. Elementary teachers retiring are Gail Boock, Lydia McDonald, Jane Nagy and Claudia Tillman. Middle School teachers are Marsha Brunsvold and Dawn Rutt with Steve Kappos, Kathy Olson, Tom Pauley, Dave Rutt and Craig VanSyoc retiring from the high school. We, at the Forest City Education Foundation, the Forest City Community School District and the entire Forest City Community wish you all the very best in your retirements!



Lydia McDonald has taught at Forest City for 36 years in Elementary Special Education.

Before coming to FC she taught at Guthrie Center and has also taught for NIACC. A favorite highlight has been blogging about lessons she has taught in her classroom and notes the technology added has been a big change and the fact FC has had Ipads for two years is something she feels proud of. Lydia's advice to those who hope to become teachers is to remember it's all about relationships. She looks forward to living on an island in South Carolina with her husband, swimming, biking, golfing, going to church on the island and spending time with family.



Thirty-eight years teaching Title I Reading and as the Elementary library media specialist describes Jane Nagy

who also taught two years in Hungary before coming to Forest City. Jane has loved the variety of each day and the students who ask if they can get signed up for her class. She has seen many changes such as technology, common core, Web 2 tools, and iPad apps. Jane has appreciated the quality inservices and gentle nudging of the administration to incorporate the best of the day's trends rather than impose a top-down prescription. She encourages those who would like to become teachers to be caring plus have a passion and willingness to grow personally in your craft. Jane is dreaming of continuing her current interests only at a more leisurely pace and having more time for reading, service to community and traveling with their first trip taking them back to Hungary.

Gail Boock has taught at the Forest City Elementary in first, second or third grades for 28 years and taught at Ar-We-Va and Iowa Falls prior to coming to FC.

Gail loves to laugh with her students and she especially remembers one Halloween Day when she looked up and saw a miniature Mrs. Boock walking into the 3rd grade classroom. "She had a stack of papers and carried a coffee cup in the same way I carry mine. She wore glasses and had on a shirt that was identical to the one I was wearing that very day! Kelly Jacobs was delighted and so was I." Gail remembers computers being room-sized when she was in college and feels none of her peers could have predicted the impact computers and other technologies would have on education. And then there is the non-academic... classroom clothing for teachers. "Like most other women my age, I wore 12" mini-skirts those earliest years (20 when I started) and the crazy part is that pant suits were not allowed until later." Gail is proud of teaching in Forest City because "we care about kids. Every student counts!" Her advice to new teachers is to "nourish a close relationship with God and allow His strength and wisdom to guide you both in and out of school. Realize you can't control everything. Work hard and make up your mind to love what you do in spite of those things beyond your control." Paul and Gail Boock will be moving to Ankeny and once they are settled look forward to taking a few trips, visiting family and volunteering.



Claudia Tillman has spent her entire 39 years of teaching in the Forest City School system,

teaching 3rd-6th grades. (33 yrs in 5th grade) A favorite memory is teaching at the Fertile Elementary. There were many students she taught multiple years and also had their siblings so Claudia knew their families well. "There were only 50 students and 4 teachers the last 4 years at the Fertile building so it felt like a little family." Technology and communications are some of the biggest changes. "When I started teaching I had to know how to thread and run a 16 mm reel-to-reel projector. Now I put a DVD into my computer and project it onto the smart board." Email and classroom phones speeds up communication with parents, other teachers and the office. Claudia is proud of the staff at the FC

Elementary for being so kind and caring, not only with students but with each other. "They work incredibly hard!" Claudia's advice to new teachers would be to "be flexible and always have a Plan B.

Learn trivia about the subjects you teach, students love that." She is looking forward to traveling, spending time with grandchildren, sewing, reading, working on genealogy and writing.





Marsha Brunsvold has been a teacher at Forest City for 24 years and has filled many roles; Media Specialist, 6th, 7th and 8th grade Language Arts, Reading, Science, Math, 7th grade Civics, 7th and 8th grade Engineering, 8th grade Science. Before teaching in Forest City, Marsha taught for two years in the Belmond-Klemme School District. She shares that her years are full of wonderful memories of students she's had the privilege to work with. "My teacher's head is stretched exponentially with the special spots students occupy." Marsha has enjoyed setting up experiences for students so they can take more responsibility for their learning. When asked why she is proud of the Forest City School System she replied, "Students come first! Money is managed well! Innovation is encouraged! Excellent staff!" The advice Marsha would like to give to those who are considering going into education is to "make sure you enjoy spending your days with students, you get very little adult interaction time. Have a fantastic sense of humor!" Marsha is looking forward to spending time with her husband and eight grandchildren, winters in South Carolina with her son and his family and working on her numerous hobbies.

Dawn Rutt has been a part of the Forest City Schools for 14 years having taught in Charles City, Central Lee, Marquette Schools, Inc., Ft. Madison Jr. High and South East Warren Community Schools prior to coming to Forest City. Dawn has been the instrumental music instructor for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and for the past four years has also taught 6th, 7th and 8th grade vocal music. Dawn's favorite memory of teaching is seeing so many students achieve a high level of playing on their instruments. As other teachers have shared, the biggest change she has seen is the increased use of technology is one of the biggest changes she's noticed in her years of teaching. Dawn shares that one of her favorite memories is "seeing so many students achieve a high level of playing on their instruments". Dawn says one thing she is most proud of in the Forest City School system is that "our school offers so many educational opportunities for our students." As far as advice goes for new teachers Dawn says "learn to be flexible with your students, sometimes you are not only there as a teacher, but as a parent figure too." Dawn's plans are to travel all over the United States in their camping trailer and to experience everything our country has to offer.



Fun Fact! Nearly 80 Forest City Community School Employees are Forest City Education Foundation "Get On the Bus!" donors!
In 2013 their gifts exceeded \$10,000! Donations are made through one time gifts as well as payroll deducted gifts.

Dave Rutt, aka "Band Guy" has been working with band students at the Forest City High School for 25 years. Before coming to FC, Dave taught at the I-35 Schools and Central Lee Community Schools. During his quarter century in Forest City he has taught high school Instrumental Music and Beginner Band. When asked to share a favorite memory or highlight of his career, one can only imagine that there have been several: at Central Lee his band played for President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter at Burlington, FCCHS band representing Iowa in National Independence Day Parade, Washington DC, FCCHS band participating in clinics with internationally acclaimed band staff at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. being associated with the Iowa All-State Band Program for 10 years, six as Chair and the opportunity to associate with some of the world's greatest educators and conductors as well as the finest music students in Iowa, (many of those who came from FCCHS), watching over the years as hundreds of students have touched their dreams through their music experience or have gone on to success in their lives and have let me know that I was part of that success. Dave notes that there has been so many changes in technology from typewriters and mimeographs to Apple II to iPads, marching band field has gone from grass with yard lines cut in by herbicide to turf, lots of professional "initiatives" that have "recycled" over the years. Dave Rutt is incredibly proud of the Forest City Community Schools. "This school system has provided a means and some incredibly talented, dedicated students that have allowed me to enjoy and grow in my professional craft for the past 25 years. These wonderful students have been raised by the most amazing and supportive parents that have also been a part of an equally important support system of their musical growth. The Band Guy advises those who are thinking of pursuing dreams of being a teacher. Enter the field of education with a passion for teaching and prepare yourself for change immediately and often. Don't settle for "normal" and don't allow your students to settle for that as well. Understand that there is not one student who walks through the door of your classroom who wants to fail." Dave isn't planning to let any grass grow under his feet in retirement. "I am going to be trained as a professional Tour Director which will allow me to then work as an independent and work with various tour companies taking tour groups (hopefully) around the country or around the world enjoying various destinations. Yes, it is true...I'll be paid to travel in my retirement!"

Steve Kappos has been in the Forest City School District for 33 years after having taught for two years in other districts prior to that. He taught Government, Economics, Geography, Sociology and U.S. History for most of those years and spent the last four years as Technology Coordinator. Steve has also been a part of student's lives through the various coaching positions and has been the head Cross Country Coach for the past several years. It's obvious when visiting with his past students and athletes that they all love his sense of humor, teaching and coaching styles and it's obvious he really cares about students. As Technology Coordinator, some days have been challenging but he has managed to handle the constant demands very well. Steve will be delaying his retirement until January so the Forest City School are fortunate to have him on staff for a few more months.



Kathleen Olson has taught all levels of special education in her 31 years in Forest City. She also taught in Worthington, Minnesota before coming to Forest City. A highlight of her career she shares is “when students become advocates for themselves.” Kathleen also notes that technology has been a change for her and has given opportunities such as Skyping with her daughter’s high school Spanish class in Nebraska. She is especially proud that the Forest City School System has always been about what is best for the students. Kathleen’s advice for new teachers is to “have a heart for the students”. She is planning to do some traveling, gardening, assisting her parents, volunteering more her church and enjoy being a grandmother.



Craig Van Syoc “Syoc” has taught in the Forest City School District for 28 years having taught in Dumont Community, Danville Community and Osage Community Schools. He has taught Elementary P.E., Middle School Science, High School P.E. and 9th grade Science. Craig couldn’t name one favorite memory or highlight with his answer to that question being “Too many to list!”. He has also noted the advancement and use of technology in education as one of the big changes in his teaching career. Craig notes that he is proud of the way the Forest City school system has continued to remain progressive in spite of the ever changing atmosphere. He adds some great advice to those who might be thinking of pursuing a career in teaching, “Always be sure to look at the perspective from the other side of the fence!” Mr. Van Syoc shares that he doesn’t quite know what he’s going to do in retirement, “Maybe start on my bucket list!”

Sophomore English, Contemporary Issues, Modern Novel and Creative Composition are courses that Tom Pauley has taught during his 21 years as a Forest City High School Language Arts teachers. Tom also taught at the Mason City CSD and in the Washington, Iowa CSD prior to teaching at FCHS. When asked his favorite memory or highlights of his career, Tom responded, “the thousands of students whose paths crossed mine and a trip to Spain, France and England with 20+ high school students. Mr. Pauley thinks of several changes he has noticed over his tenure including the attitude of the students, advent of technology and the decrease in parental involvement. His pride in the Forest City School system comes because of the “great, caring teachers who work extremely hard to provide the best education possible.” Tom has clever advice to young people who are starting out as teachers, “Stay out of the teacher’s lounge. If you enjoy interacting with younger people and want to impact their lives, this is your job.” Tom looks forward to doing some traveling in retirement.



A Season Full of Activities for Everyone by Kathy Rollefson

Forest City is one place you will want to be for the summer of 2014. There are a wide range of offerings starting during Memorial Day weekend through to the beginning of school in August. Music, outdoor adventure, and town celebrations, just to name a few options to choose from for planned activities.

June 20-21- Bash on the Farm at Heritage Park of North Iowa, with 3 stages: The Main Stage, The Shed Stage, and The Yard Stage, for live performances of Christian music.

Check out www.bashonthefarm.com for the 2014 line-up and FAQ’s.

June 28-29 is the inaugural year of International Festival at Heritage Park. Celebrate family, food and fun! This two day family-friendly festival connects people through what we all share: food, music, dance, art, and games. www.heritageparkofnorthiowa.com This year WIT Grand National Rayy, July 16-20 and Puckerbrush Days, July 17-20, are concurrent events; we have a large number of visitors here for the Rally participating in activities planned for Forest City’s annual celebration. www.forestcityia.com

July 22 is the date for RAGRAI overnight in Forest City. We are expecting 20,000 extra people in town for an event filled day. www.forestcityragbrai.com

August 1, North Ioea Festival of Brass will be in Forest City, featuring 10 Drum & Bugle Corps. from around the country performing their perfected routines a few days before their international competition in Indianapolis, IN. www.northiowamusicarts.org



**Pictures from Seniors Awards Night
courtesy of Forest City Summit**

Left to right, top to bottom:

- Class of 1953: Mary Schaefer & Chuck Skogerboe, Kyle Wooldrige
- Beebe Family Scholarship: Ray and Joan Beebe, Amanda Post
- HMR Scholarship: Paul Oulman, Chad Ullmann
- Aberg Family Scholarship: Robin Aberg, Rachel Snyder
- LeDonna Durant Scholarship: Kirk & Julie Jefson, Dan Melby
- Paul Carson Memorial Scholarship: Kathryn McHan, Chad Ullmann
- Dennis K. Branstad Scholarship and RW Branstad Scholarship: Julie DeVries, Rily Moore, Logan West
- Clifford & Merna Torkelson Scholarship: Mark Frakes, Jacob Haugen
- Raymond Stark Memorial Scholarship: Dick Tweeten, Dan Melby
- Brooker Cup Award & Scholarship: Tyler Putney, Steve Brooker
- Nelson/Straks Family Scholarship: Steve Nelson, Collin Hertzner
- Jay Lewison Memorial Scholarship: Alice Lewison, Molly Lewison
- Smile for Sheena Scholarship: Shawn Miller, Josh Putz

Senior Awards Night Scholarships

\$250 Denny Lovick Mem. Scholarship-Quincey Vaagensmith
 \$500 Elise Marie Johnson Scholarship - Riley Moore
 and Rachael Steiff
 \$400 Middle School Scholarship - Elizabeth Springer
 \$1600 Class of 1953 Scholarship* - Kyle Wooldridge
 \$1000 Raymond Stark Memorial Scholarship* - Dan Melby
 \$500 Mike & Jean O'Rourke Appreciation Scholarship* -
 Kaitlyn Sorenson
 \$1500 Paul Carson Memorial Scholarship* - Chad Ullmann
 \$500 Ron & Hope Lichtsinn Scholarship - Collin Hertzner
 \$1000 Dennis K. Branstad Scholarship* - Riley Moore
 \$1500 Rudolph W. Branstad Scholarship* - Logan West
 \$300 Benson/Torkelson Memorail Scholarship - Garrett Fjeld
 \$500 LeDonna R. Durant Scholarship* - Dan Melby
 \$1000 HMR Scholarship* - Chad Ullmann
 \$1000 Frakes Family Scholarship - Reagan Reece
 \$300 Steve & Nancy Olson Family Scholarship -
 Quincey Vaagensmith
 \$300 Dave Draheim Memorial Scholarship - Elias Larson
 \$650 Clifford & Merna Torkelson Scholarship - Jacob Haugen
 \$4500 Don & Edell Westerberg "Make Something of Yourself"
 Memorial Scholarship* - Mark Knudtson
 \$1500 Nelson/Strakes Family Scholarship - Collin Hertzner
 \$300 FC Breakfast Lions Denny Lovick Memorial Scholarship -
 Rachel Snyder
 \$1200 Elsie Hanson Willig Memorial Scholarship* - Nick Bunger
 \$500 Allan Gilbertson Memorial Scholarship/Gilby Award -
 Alexa Peterson
 \$500 Forest City Farmer's Coop Scholarships -
 Tyler Brock, Jacob Haugen, Garrett Fjeld, Logan West
 \$200 Bill's Family Foods Scholarships - Haley Moklestad,
 Elias Larson
 \$250 Masonic Lodge Scholarship - Riley Moore
 \$500 DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award - Tyler Brock
 \$500 Randy & Tracy Broesder Family Scholarship - Tyler Putney
 \$250 Barbara Lorenzen Cromwell Memorial Scholarship -
 Logan Hobbs
 \$150 Frank F. Sinnard Memorial Scholarship - Macy Tzoylis
 \$500 Charlie Ruitter & Brandon Thomas Memorial Scholarship -
 Anthony Spada
 \$300 Lee & Linda Hinkley Scholarship* - Caselyn Fuentes
 \$1000 Barbara Bulman Scholarships - Sarah Nelson &
 Courtney Fredrickson
 \$300 Chasing the Sun Memorial Scholarship - Alyssa Brock
 3-year Half Tuition, 1-year Full Tuition - Bill C. Fox
 Engineering Scholarship - Logan Hobbs & Garrett Fjeld
 \$500 Larry W. Lovick Scholarship - Jacob Haugen
 \$300 Richard Putz Memorial Scholarship - Elizabeth Springer
 \$500 Academic/Athletic/Arts Scholarship* - Nick Bunger
 \$300 Linda Lunning Memorial Scholarship* - Kaitlyn Sorenson

\$500 Doug Book Memorial Scholarship - Tyler Putney
 \$250 P.E.O. Scholarship - Rachel Snyder
 \$1462.73 Jay Lewison Memorial Scholarship - Molly Lewison
 \$300 Smile For Sheena Memorial Scholarship* - Josh Putz
 \$300 Aberg Family Scholarship* - Rachel Snyder
 \$500 NIACC Area 2 Scholarship - Elizabeth Springer
 \$1000 (17) Winnebago Industries Foundation Scholarships -
 Austin Adams, Haley Amundson, Alyssa Brock, Tyler Brock,
 Nick Bunger, Stephanie Formanek, Courtney Fredrickson,
 Jacob Haugen, Collin Hertzner, Molly Lewison, Dan Melby,
 Andrew Mettry, Sarah Nelson, Alexa Peterson, Reagan Reece,
 Jacob Saatmann, Tory Sharp
 \$500 American Legion School Award & Scholarships (2) -
 Brandon Rollefson and Tyler Putney
 \$1000 Forest City YMCA Scholarship in Memory of
 Merrill G. Oleson - Nick Bunger and Molly Lewison
 \$350 Kirby Thompson Memorial Scholarship - Chad Ullmann
 \$300 KIOW Scholarship - Elizabeth Springer
 \$500 Nyhus Family Ag Enrichment Scholarship - Tyler Brock
 \$500 Nyhus Family Wartburg Scholarship* - Mady Espeland
 \$300 Am. Bar Association Citizenship Award - Nicole Skjeie
 \$500 Rotary Waldorf Scholarship - Haley Moklestad,
 Quincey Vaagensmith, Anton Kudej
 \$300 Joyful Spirit Scholarship - Elizabeth Springer
 \$500 Farm & City Insurance Services Scholarship -
 Jacob Haugen
 \$250 High School Student Council Leadership - Amanda Post
 \$500 Eugene Morris Evening Lions Scholarship - Collin Hertzner
 \$500 Kimberly Hope Jordal Memorial Scholarship - Jake Staudt
 \$200 Am. Legion Auxiliary Scholarship - Quincey Vaagensmith
 Petterson Family Scholarships - United Methodist Church -
 Alexa Peterson and Riley Moore
 \$250 P.C. Olson Memorial Scholarship - Taila Jacobs
 \$300 Get On The Bus Scholarships (4) - Nick Hall, Jake Staudt,
 Myranda Gelhaus, Kiya Meinecke
 \$500 Hanlontown Community Club Scholarship Award -
 Kaitlyn Sorenson
 \$500 Heartland Power Scholarship - Rachael Steiff
 \$1000 Deanna Engstrom Memorial Scholarship
 MaxYield Coop - Amanda Post
 \$500 Sukup Manufacturing Scholarship - Briana Marson
 \$1000 Ford Scholarship - Chad Ullmann
 \$100 Class of '88 - Mady Espeland
 \$300 TSB Bank Scholarship - Kiya Meinecke
 \$7835.93 WCDA Scholarships - Zach Hermanson,
 Samantha Suby, Kaitlyn Sorenson
 \$4000 Clarence Hawkes Scholarships - Nick Bunger,
 Molly Lewison, Grant Lehmann, Rachael Steiff
 \$1000 Brooker Cup Award & Scholarship - Tyler Putney
 \$10,000 Raymond and Joan Beebe Scholarship - Amanda Post

* indicates new scholarships

Foundation Academic Awards Commitment to Excellence Awards

\$5000 Level
 Sarah Nelson
 Amanda Post
 Brandon Rollefson
 Jacob Staudt

\$3000 Level
 Courtney Fredrickson
 Collin Hertzner

\$1000 - Diamond
 Tyler Brock
 Mady Espeland
 Dan Melby
 Nicole Skjeie
 Anthony Spada
 Rachael Steiff

\$800 - Platinum
 Nicholas Hall
 Alexa Peterson
 Elizabeth Springer
 Erin Strayer
 Chad Ullmann
 Logan West

\$700 - Gold
 Nicholas Bunger
 Caselyn Fuentes
 Kaitlyn Helfter
 Jacob Haugen
 Tyler Putney
 Reagan Reece

\$600 - Silver
 Stephanie Formanek
 Myranda Gelhaus
 Kiya Meinecke
 Tory Sharp
 Macy Tzoylis
 Quincey Vaagensmith

\$2500 Level
 Garrett Fjeld
 Logan Hobbs
 Molly Lewison
 Jacob Saatmann
 Rachel Snyder

\$1500 Level
 Austin Adams
 Andrew Mettry
 Kaitlyn Sorenson
 Brandon Truong

\$500 Bronze
 Haley Amundson
 Alyssa Brock
 Tyra Brown
 Zach Hermanson
 Taila Jacobs
 Grant Lehmann
 Briana Marson
 Haley Moklestad
 Hannah Nolton
 Joshua Putz
 Shania VanDenHul
 Linzy Vermedahl
 Kyle Wooldridge

Forest City Education Foundation Awards \$1000 plus an additional \$250 if attending NIACC or \$500 if attending Waldorf College.

Austin Adams
 Haley Amundson
 Alyssa Brock
 Tyler Brock
 Tyra Brown
 Nick Bunger
 Mady Espeland
 Courtney Fredrickson
 Garrett Fjeld
 Stephanie Formanek
 Caselyn Fuentes
 Myranda Gelhaus
 Nicholas Hall
 Jacob Haugen
 Kaitlyn Helfter
 Zach Hermanson
 Collin Hertzner
 Logan Hobbs
 Taila Jacobs
 Marcus Knapp
 Mark Knudtson
 Elias Larson
 Grant Lehmann
 Molly Lewison
 Briana Marson
 Kiya Meinecke
 Daniel Melby
 Andrew Mettry

Haley Moklestad
 Riley Moore
 Sarah Nelson
 Hannah Nolton
 Alexa Peterson
 Amanda Post
 Tyler Putney
 Joshua Putz
 Reagan Reece
 Brandon Rollefson
 Jacob Saatmann
 Tory Sharp
 Nicole Skjeie
 Rachel Snyder
 Kaitlyn Sorenson
 Anthony Spada
 Elizabeth Springer
 Jacob Staudt
 Rachael Steiff
 Erin Strayer
 Brandon Truong
 Macy Tzoylis
 Chad Ullmann
 Quincey Vaagensmith
 Shania VanDenHul
 Linzy Vermedahl
 Kyle Wooldridge
 Logan West

Photo by Rae Yost, Forest City Summit



**Forest City Education Foundation
145 South Clark Stree- PO Box 270
Forest City, IA 50436**

The Forest City Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender equity, socio-economic status, or disability in its educational programs, services or employment practices. Students, parents of students, applicants for employment and employees of the Forest City Community Schools shall have the right to file a formal complaint alleging non-compliance with equity regulations.

Inquiries concerning application of this statement should be addressed to:
Dave Cunningham, Equity Coordinator, 1405 West I Street, Forest City, Iowa 50436, Telephone (641) 585-2670 or
Zach Dillavou, Equity Coordinator, 216 West School Street, Forest City, Iowa 50436, Telephone (641) 585-4772.

Don and Edell Westerberg “Make Something of Yourself” Memorial Scholarship

shared by Tim Westerberg

Our parents, Don and Edell Westerberg, were always very supportive of education in general and of the Forest City High School in particular. They attended athletic events here for over sixty years, and I don't believe the Indians ever lost a game, according to dad, were it not for poor officiating and/or poor coaching.

I vividly remember a conversation with dad some time toward the end of my high school years here at FCHS in which I shared my view that I would probably stick around town and do something locally, perhaps farm. He quickly disabused me of that notion & concluded that characteristically short conversation with the statement, “You're going to make something of yourself.” To him, and to our mother, making something of yourself meant continuing your education after high school.

The value our parents placed on education spread through the family, resulting in all nine grandchildren graduating with college degrees and with funds already in place to support the continuing education of existing and future great grandchildren.

That value for education will continue to grow through the
Don and Edell Westerberg
“Make Something of Yourself” Scholarship Memorial Scholarshi

Pictured above:: Tim Westerberg, Steve Westerberg, Deanna Ennen and Mark Knudtson, scholarship recipient

Would you like to start a scholarship in your family's name or in memory or honor of someone you love? It's very easy! Contact Julie DeVries at Forest City Education Foundation to set it up: 641.585.2323. We ask that your scholarship is a minimum of \$300. Payments can be made over time.