Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

It has been my privilege to serve with a very dedicated Board of Directors this year and it is with great pride and excitement that I share our 2015 Annual Report with you.

The Alexandria Education Foundation (AEF) shares a vision of enhancing education in Alexandria ISD. We work to increase private support for unique learning experiences for students, by raising funds, and uniting the community in support of education excellence.

There is much to celebrate as we reflect on our accomplishments over the past year.

In 2015, the Alexandria Education Foundation:
- Awarded $30,000 in teacher/classroom innovation grants
- Grew the ‘206 Club’ to 260 members
- Conducted a successful annual donor campaign that will enable us to increase our teacher grant awards to $40,000 in 2016 – our largest grant round to date
- Held 2 annual fundraising events – the Hall of Fame Luncheon and Jeans & Jewels Gala – raising over $14,000 that help fund innovative teaching ideas
- Awarded $4,800 in student scholarships
- Completed a video to help tell the Education Foundation story
- Launched a new website
- Implemented new social media communication tools
- Contributed to the Alexandria Alumni Magazine
- Contributed to the STEAM Expo

The Foundation is governed by a group of volunteer citizens from the Alexandria Area. Fulfilling their terms and stepping down from the Board at the end of 2015 are Susan Scarborough and Greg Trumm. Their visionary leadership and strong support helped provide extraordinary educational experiences for Alexandria Public Schools’ students.

In closing, thank you for your financial support. We look forward to seeing you and working with you in the year ahead to continue the tradition of excellence in Alexandria Public Schools.

With gratitude,
Christine Reilly, Chair
Jefferson High School Class of 1993

AEF Board of Directors
Back row (l to r): Patrick Kalina, Keith Hoeschen, Randy Winger, Tom Ellison, Jay Sieling.
Front row (l to r): Bonnie Schnell, Julie Critz (ex-officio), Sarah O’Kane; Jean Bristow, Christine Reilly, Craig Olson, Eric Karlstad.
Not pictured: Judy Backhaus, Dana Christenson.
Alumni Hall of Fame

Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Alexandria Education Foundation Hall of Fame class of 2016. The deadline to submit nominees for the 2016 class will be April 8, 2016.

Anyone may submit a nomination and the Foundation Board will make honoree selections based on the following criteria:

• Nominees must have graduated from an Alexandria High School in 1996 or earlier, or must have retired from District 206 after serving in the District for a minimum of 10 years.
• Nominees must have realized distinctive achievements in their chosen field(s) that include such areas as business, education, science, professions or community service.
• Nominees may or may not be currently holding the position(s) in which they achieved major success.
• Nominees may be living or deceased.

Nominations can be submitted via the online form link at: www.alexeducationfoundation.org. A list of previous honorees can be viewed on this page as well. All nominations received by April 8, 2016 will be considered. The Foundation Board will make the final selection of inductees with names announced in May. Those not selected will remain in the pool for future consideration. The 2016 inductees will be recognized at a luncheon in their honor on Friday, September 30, 2016 in connection with Alexandria homecoming festivities. For more information, call (320) 808-8437 or email info@alexeducationfoundation.org.

Foundation fundraiser event raises $14,000 to help fund innovative teaching ideas

Last fall, the Foundation hosted its annual Jeans & Jewels Gala at the Broadway Ballroom around the theme of “Music Makes the World Go Round.” Over 350 attended this special event which serves as a thank you event for all Foundation contributors and a fundraiser open to the public.

The event featured jewelry prize drawings, a live auction, special event prizes courtesy of local donors, silent auction items, a game of Musical Chairs, and a ‘Foundation Feud’, making it a fun evening for all!

The AEF wishes to express our appreciation to all of those who attended our Jeans & Jewels fundraiser. Special thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, the event planning committee, and everyone else who committed their time and energy to make this a successful evening. Proceeds from the event, which totaled nearly $14,000, go to support grants that will enable Alexandria teachers to implement creative and innovative educational programs in the classroom.

The 8th Annual Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser has been set for Friday, September 30, 2016. We invite you to mark your calendar and plan to join us!
Eric & Sara Gronholz
Bill & Paula Glade
Mike & LuAnn Gesell
Bill & Barb Flaig
Paul & Pris Fieldhammer
Steve & Jan Ferguson
Rodney & Frances Felber
John & Martha Esbjornsson
Dale & Janet Ellison
Mike & Ruth Dolan
Jay Sieling & Deb Dittberner
Kyle & Shelley Diekman
Casey & Jan DeJong
Bob & Darice Cunniff
Class of 1948
Ed & Sylvia Christopherson
Dana & Becky Christenson
Dick & Melanie Chancellor
Ryan & Jody Carns
Kent & Pam Carlson
Chris & Lori Canavati
Terry & Connie Brueske
Mike & Jean Bristow
Pete & Melissa Bright
Dennis & Susan Brede
Rich & Marlene Braun
Dennis & Tara Bitzan
Greg Billberg
Beau Backhaus
Tim & Jennifer Asche
Tom & Angie Anderson
Terry & Claire Anderson
Mark & Sally Anderson
Kelly & Linda Anderson
Dave & Lori Anderson
Jim & Suzanne Allen
Alexandria Zetetic Study Club
On Facebook, Like Us by visiting:
and on Twitter follow us at @AlexEdFound206.
www.alexeducationfoundation.org
Bruce & Kathleen Pohlig
Lisa Pikop
Trevor & Stacy Peterson
Randy & Barb Peterson
Mike & Paula Glade
Richard & Sheriann Hafdal
Gerald & Joyce Hansen
Jeff & Anna Linillo
Kevin McMenimon
Roderick & Joan Nelson
Paul A. H. Paw
Randi & Barb Peterson
Bruce & Kathleen Poligt
Michael & Susan Scarborough
George & Shirley Torney
Ellen Van Kempen

Other Gifts
James & Luvene Adams
Ferrell Berger
Greta Blackwater
Clausa Burch
Marylyn M. Bursch
Class of 1961
Jim & Anne Eskild
Paul & Linda Engelson
Ken & Jan Elsa
Ralph & Carol Gaffney
Bill & Paula Glade
Richard & Sheriann Hafdal
Gerald & Joyce Hansen
Jeff & Anna Linillo
Kevin McMenimon
Roderick & Joan Nelson
Paul A. H. Paw
Randi & Barb Peterson
Bruce & Kathleen Poligt
Michael & Susan Scarborough
George & Shirley Torney
Ellen Van Kempen

Matching Gifts
Douglas MacMillan
Douglas Scientific
New York Life Insurance
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Memorial Donations
AHS Sunshine Fund
In memory of John Knowles
Dean & Deb Anderson,
In memory of Lloyd Lape
Tom & Angie Anderson,
In memory of Brad Lutz
Tom & Angie Anderson,
In memory of Duane Nelson
Lee & Judy Baskaus,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Greg Billberg,
In memory of Sherry Billberg
Delware & Dorothy Bank
In memory of Murren Freese
Mitch & Julie Critz,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Mitch & Julie Critz,
In memory of Tom Reif
Tom & Carol Anderson,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Wayne & Solven Lewis,
In memory of Rick Domschot
Wayne & Solven Lewis,
In memory of John Knowles
Paul & Linda Bonsignor,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Sue Eingstrom,
In memory of Darius Eingstrom
Ken & Jan Elsa,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Paul & Judy Florell,
In memory of Ron Domschat
Ralph & Carol Gaffney,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Richard & Sheriann Hafdal,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Gerald & Susan Thomsen,
In memory of John Knowles
Richard & Sheriann Hafdal,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Stephan & Kathy Haug,
In memory of Kerri Gustafson
Bob & Alice Strand Lembke,
In memory of Dave Strand
Mike & Kathy Luebke,
In memory of Ethan Montplaisir
Gregg & Mary Sonstegard,
In memory of Ron Domschat
Michael & Susan Scarborough
George & Shirley Torney
Ellen Van Kempen

Art/Music Fund
Joan Limpdacht

Sponsorships
AAA Theatre
ABR Theatre
Alex Rubish & Recycling
Alexandria Area High School Activity Dept
Alexandria Eye Clinic
Alexandria Public Schools
Community Education
American Cleaners & Launderers
Amperise Financial
Anderson Funeral Home
Backhaus Appraisals
Bell State Bank & Trust
Borais Financial Services
Bremer Bank
Broadway Ballroom/Garden Center
Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra
Central Specialties
Dielery's Jewelry
Dillie Zimmerman
Douglas Machines
Emerson Family Dentistry
Ferguson Brothers Excavating
Glenwood State Bank
H Boyd Nelson Wholesale Hardware
Heidt Jewelers
Integrity Title
Iverson Insurance Agency
Johnson Chiropractic & Sports Clinic
Karrow Jewelry
Larson Insurance
Marical Brothers
National Association of Veterans
Pro Tapes
Sodahlum Oral Surgery
and Implants
State Farm Insurance
Theatre Le Homme Dieu
True North Consulting Partners
Tucumcari Drug
US Bank
Weslund Company
Westside Liquors

We apologize for possible inaccuracies in this listing of our contributors. Please advise the Foundation of corrections by calling (320) 808-6457.
Welcome New Board Members

The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (AEF) is pleased to announce the recent election of five new members to its Board of Directors: Dana Christenson, Tom Ellison, Patrick Kalina, Sarah O’Kane, and Jay Sieling.

“We are excited to welcome these new members,” said Christine Reilly, Foundation board president. “Each one has close ties to the community and shares a passion for education that will help advance the mission of the Foundation.”

Jay Sieling is a Liberal Arts Instructor at Alexandria Technical and Community College. He holds a Master of Arts in Humanities from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He studied Speech Communication at Pennsylvania State University. Jay is married to Dr. Deborah Dittberner. They moved to Alexandria in 1995 and have three graduates of Alexandria Public Schools.

Sarah O’Kane is a graduate of Fergus Falls High School and Minnesota State University Moorhead with a degree in Business and Professional Communications. She and her family moved to Alexandria in 2010. Sarah is actively involved in Alexandria Public Schools on the Strategic Planning Committee, Curriculum Advisory Committee, as a Junior Achievement instructor and other volunteer opportunities. Sarah and her husband Chris have three daughters - Allison (16), Erin (14) and Jordan (11).

Tom Ellison grew up in the Alexandria area and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1979. Tom graduated college in 1984 from Moorhead State University, majoring in Industrial Technology Education. Tom taught for many years in the Brandon-Evansville School District before accepting a position in the fall of 2012 with Alexandria Public Schools as an instructional arts teacher at the high school. Tom and his wife, Julie, have two young children that also graduated from Alexandria Public Schools.

Patrick Kalina is a 2000 graduate of Jefferson High School and is married to Haley Kalina who teaches science at Discovery Middle School. The couple have two children. Patrick holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Music from North Dakota State University and a Masters in Business Administration degree from Southwest Minnesota State University – Marshall. He is a Project Manager with the Customer Service Department at Douglas Scientific and is involved in a variety of boards and organizations throughout the community.

Dana Christenson is a 1982 alum of Jefferson High School. He received an English degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI and taught middle school English for nine years in Winnetka, IL, just north of Chicago. He and his wife Becky, also a Jefferson alum, were happy to return to Alexandria to raise their two sons, Sam, a freshman at DePaul University, and Brady, a senior at AAHS. Dana taught English and was a Dean of Students at Discovery Middle School before becoming the principal at Voyager Elementary, where he has been the last seven years.

Scholarship Awards

The Foundation wants to build a financial cornerstone for investing in students and teachers in Alexandria Public Schools. One of the ways we do that is by helping students attain college degrees. Through a competitive scholarship process, the Foundation financially supports the transition from high school to 2 to 4-year colleges. The purpose is to make the cost of a college education more affordable for students.

AEF has awarded $15,000 in college tuition scholarships to 20 seniors over the last seven years.

The Seeds for Future Learning Scholarship provides for $400 scholarships to students who have an interest in pursuing a college degree in business, education, manufacturing, or agriculture. Craig Olson, foundation board member (picted middle), poses with the 2015 “Seeds for Future Learning” scholarship recipients, Megan Hanson (left) and Alex Wasipuk (right).

The Class of 1988 Scholarship fund was created through a generous 1988 Jefferson High School graduate. These scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each are awarded to one male and one female student who plan to pursue a degree in education, health care, or the arts. Congratulations to the 2015 “Class of 1988” scholarship recipients, Sam Christenson (left) and McGenna Petrie (right).

Alexandria Education Foundation

Alexandria Education Foundation Awards $30,000 in Teacher Innovation Grants

In May 2015, the Foundation awarded $30,000 in teacher grants to fund student-engaged projects planned for the 2015-2016 school year that will enrich learning and encourage classroom innovation. Projects funded included:

Media Productions

School: Alexandria Area High School
Grades: 10-12
Submitted by: Ty Granning, Digital Arts Teacher Award: $6,000

Health Applications Manikin Lab Expansion
School: Alexandria Area High School
Grades: 11-12
Submitted by: Meg Simon, Science Teacher Award: $5,110

Math Graphing Calculators
School: Discovery Middle School
Grades: 8
Submitted by: Heidi Fischer, Math Teacher Award: $4,800

Technology Integration
School: Voyager Elementary School
Grade: 2
Submitted by: Benjamin Kettler, Elementary Teacher Award: $2,350

Hands on Literacy
School: Woodland Elementary School
Grade: Kindergarten
Submitted by: Jennifer Erickson, Elementary Teacher Award: $3,550

Enhanced Physical Education with Technology
School: Discovery Middle School
Grades: 6-8
Submitted by: Kelly Lewis, Physical Education Teacher Award: $3,000

Play is a Powerful Teacher
School: Miltona Science Magnet Elementary
Grade: K-5
Submitted by: Chad Gilbertson, Elementary Teacher Award: $2,940

Osmo – Changing The Way We Use Our iPads
School: Miltona Science Magnet Elementary
Grade: K-5
Submitted by: Chad Gilbertson, Elementary Teacher Award: $1,750

The Second City Improvisation Workshop
Program: Community Education
Grades: 9-12
Submitted by: Community Education Award: $500

Annually, AEF invites the district’s teachers and staff to submit grant applications for programs that will have a meaningful impact on students.

To date, nearly $125,000 awarded in innovative teaching grants for:

• STEM Engineering
• Core Curriculum
• Technology
• The Arts

Our mission is to be a premier education foundation that significantly impacts Alexandria students.