



2010 Family Night Picnic Midwest Scholars Awarded

On July 17, 2010, the Midwest hosted the annual Family Night Picnic at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva, Illinois as the Kane County Cougars took on the West Michigan Whitecaps.

The Midwest took advantage of the ballpark's new set up and reserved one of their rooftop decks. Adjacent to their "sky box section" this new area offered both picnic style seating as well as a few rows of stadium seats for those interested in the game.

The Midwest sold 126 tickets for the event, and all who showed up were treated to a fun night of baseball and friendship. Meeting sponsors included: **Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., JW Turf / John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Syngenta and XGD Systems.** Their support helped offset the costs and made the event affordable for all. Please support them.

The last few years we have invited our scholarship winners to the Family Night Picnic, and this year Ashley Anderson and her dad, John Anderson were able to make it. Ashley is attending University of Michigan and studying Business.

Describe something significant you learned in college (in or out of the classroom) that surprised you about life.

"I have learned a lot of things in college classrooms and from my college professors about not only whatever subject they are teaching but also how people and the world work. However, the most important thing that I have learned this past year was not taught in a classroom.

In April of this year, Ann Arbor was having problems with arson. Multiple cars in parking lots were set on fire, and in one incident, a porch was set on fire and several people were severely injured. These events struck close to home when a car in the parking lot of my sorority chapter house was set on fire, a car that was parked right against the back of our wooden kitchen. We were lucky and although the car ended up completely charred; our house only suffered minor smoke damage.

Since this happened at about 2 o'clock in the morning, 60 women had to evacuate our house until we knew the extent of the damage. As Chapter President, I was in charge of the safety of all those women, talking with emergency officials, and alerting Chapter Advisors of our situation. Although we were able to enter the house just a few hours later and no one was hurt, this event taught me a lot about myself and how to handle emergency situations.

I was surprised in myself that I could handle such a major event and make sure that everyone was safe. I was also surprised in the people of our community and how we banded together when our fire was one of four set on the same street within an hour of each other. And lastly, I was surprised at the perpetrator, that someone could be so callous about dangerous fires. This event left a significant impression on me and made me realized things that surprised me about life."

– Ashley Anderson



Ashley Anderson and her dad John enjoyed an evening together at the Cougar game as guests of MAGCS.

Phil Bastron, son of Paul Bastron, was not able to make the event. He was spending his summer working for USA Track and Field in Indianapolis prior to heading back to graduate school at the University of Minnesota. Phil is studying Public Policy.

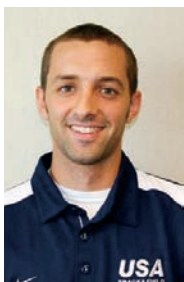
Describe something significant you learned in college (in or out of the classroom) that surprised you about life.

"My undergraduate years at the University of St. Thomas taught me a number of valuable skills. I learned to analyze data sets using statistical software in my Econometric Methods course. I learned the proper pronunciation of the French language in my French Phonetics course. However, the most important skill and lesson that I learned in my years at St. Thomas was how to be a good team player.

In an increasingly connected world, it is more important than ever to be able to effectively work with those around you and understand your role in a group. This is a skill that I refined as a member and captain of the track team, as well as through various leadership roles on campus.

In order to be a good team player, it is important to understand your role in a group. As a college freshman on the track team, I wanted to be a leader right away. Having been a successful high school runner, I thought I could be a great inspiration to my teammates. However, I quickly learned that as a new member of the team, it was important for me to learn from others around me and to let those who had more experience to be the leaders. By observing the captains and the older athletes, I was able to develop into a leader on the team in the years to come. When I did become the leader that I sought to be, my role changed from an observer to an example, and it became important for me to share my knowledge and experience with the younger athletes."

– Phil Bastron



Our third winner, Ben Breuninger (grandson of Lynn Wesson), is our first out of state winner. Ben lives in Pennsylvania and is going to start college this fall at Dickinson College.

Who was your most memorable high school teacher and why?

"I first met Mr. Schott in my first class of AP European History. I immediately took to him, perhaps because of The Who poster or the fact that, during our first class, he had us march outside awkwardly to take a picture that we would compare to another one taken at the end of the year to see how we had changed.

Mr. Schott's style is deadpanning, quirky, and orchestrated. He commands respect, but not explicitly; it's simply impossible to not appreciate his politeness and humor. He makes it a priority to understand what his students are up to, so by the end of the year one almost gets used to his constant references to Lady Gaga and Twitter. He also tries to make the class relevant and teach skills useful in life as well as school. For example, he introduces himself to each student on the first day of school after teaching proper handshake technique, and throughout the year he'll introduce concepts including red herring, punditry, and other things schools don't typically teach.

Currently, I'm a teaching assistant for Mr. Schott, which means that we get additional looks into each others' heads. We swap music and teaching ideas, and I'm offered the occasional cupcake left over from faculty functions. It's hard to say what I like best about Mr. Schott—his support for local indie radio, his sharp taste in ties, his refusal to let class be boring—but above all, his verve and personality fosters both respect and understanding in his students."

–Ben Breuninger



Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners and thank you to all those that applied. We had a record number of 25 applicants this year.

(photos continued on next page)



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