

The mission of the Fremont Public School Foundation is to support the Fremont Public Schools by:

★ Raising funds to support programs for the enhancement and enrichment of public education, which would not be possible through local tax funds.

★ Recognizing excellence in Public Education.

★ Enhancing the quality of education for all students.

★ Reinforcing positive relations within the community.

★ Enriching the quality of life for the Fremont Community.

WW II Tribute Back on Display



Lloyd and Marjorie McDuffee, members of the class of 1944, pose with the plaque presented by their class in memory of FHS students who lost their lives in World War II.

FPS Foundation Board member Butch McDuffee made an interesting discovery in a store room at Fremont High School. While looking for vending supplies for the high school concession stand, he noted a large plaque buried among other long-forgotten artifacts. The eagle at the top of the plaque caught his eye. It was broken, and the plaque was scratched and covered in dust, but McDuffee's curiosity was sufficiently aroused that he dug it out, brushed off the dust, and found that it was a plaque given by the class of 1944 in tribute to forty seven Fremont High members and graduates who lost their lives in World War II. Each of the forty seven names is etched on a

separate metal plate, and attached to the front of the plaque. The plaque apparently made the trip to the new high school at 16th and Lincoln in 1960, but was never displayed there.

By coincidence, McDuffee's parents, Lloyd and Marjorie, were members of the class of 1944 and were able to provide information about the plaque. It was given by the class during their senior year, but most of the individuals named on the plaque were from earlier graduating classes. Lloyd noted that one member of the class of 1944 lost his life in the war, and his name is included on the plaque. Marjorie noted that 97% of the men from the class of 1944 were called to the service of their country, and that they took just about anyone, regardless of health or fitness issues. Lloyd says that the plaque hung on the wall across the hall from the principal's office.

The plaque was brought to the Foundation Office, where with a little cleaning and polishing it has been restored to a more presentable condition. Ray Hula, a graduate of the FHS class of 1951, and an accomplished wood carver, has carved a new eagle to replace the damaged one at the top of the plaque, and the



The refurbished plaque, with a new Eagle now hangs on the second floor of the Main Street Education and Administration Center at 130 East 9th.

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From the Executive Director's Desk



Dr. David Pinkall,
Executive Director

Amid the excitement of organizing the first Annual sustaining fund drive for the FPS Foundation, we all received a somber reminder of the precious and fragile nature of the lives that are nurtured in our schools each day. A plaque containing the names of forty-seven Fremont High Students, members of "America's Greatest Generation" who made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned home from World War II, was discovered in a store room at the high school on 16th and Lincoln Ave. As this is being written, it is still residing in my office, waiting for a new, hand-carved eagle so that it can be returned to a place of prominence in the Main

Street Education and Administration Center at 9th and Main Street. You can read more about the plaque elsewhere in this newsletter.

For now, I look at the plaque each day, and it only seems appropriate that it would end up back here, in the "old high school", where those forty seven students attended class, participated in high school activities, laughed, played and dreamed dreams about what they would do when they grew up.....just as today's school students do. For me, it's a reminder about the sacred nature of the lives that are entrusted to our schools each day, and why it is so important that we do the best for them that we possibly can. After all, they will only pass this way once. ★

New Software to Assist Foundation, Alumni Association

The Fremont Public School Foundation and Fremont Alumni Association recently received some much needed help in the area of tracking alumni and FPS supporters. New computer software has been purchased and loaded onto the FPS computer network for use by the Alumni Association and FPS Foundation in tracking graduates and FPS supporters. The new software is designed expressly for the purpose of assisting non-profit organizations to track information about their supporters, and is designed in such a way that it is fast and user friendly for those who must enter and maintain information.

With the new system, individuals with a moderate level of computer literacy and a small amount of training can easily access and update information quickly. The time required to access and change an individual address, for example, is about 60 seconds. The edits can be made on one of four specified computers on the FPS system, and all are password protected so that only those with specific clearance can access the program.

Attempting to keep current information on Fremont High School

graduates and supporters is not a simple task, particularly considering that a conservative estimate puts that number at over 12,000 individuals. While younger graduates have always had a high mobility rate, current trends indicate that Americans of all ages are much more mobile than a generation or two ago, and attempting to keep track of female graduates by both maiden and married names is a particularly tricky task. With the new software, it just became much easier!

The advantages of the new software should become noticeable in the following ways:

1. address changes will be made much more quickly
2. providing lists for reunion groups will be much simpler
3. retrieving information on individuals will be simpler
4. the accuracy of information about graduates and supporters will gradually increase as information is updated

Please help us make the best use of this new tool by letting us know when addresses or situations change! ★

Jennifer Peterson Named to FPS Foundation Board

At their October Board meeting, the Foundation Board named Jennifer Peterson to a three year term of the Board of Directors. Jennifer is a graduate of North Platte High School, and a former teacher at Fremont Middle School where she taught Family and Consumer Science. She and her husband, Russ, are parents of four children, two of whom are Fremont High School graduates, one who is a junior at Fremont High, and one who is an 8th grader at Fremont Middle School. Jennifer is honored to be on the FPS Foundation Board, and is excited to work to help keep our schools strong for the children of Fremont. As she puts it, "I think it's so important that we do the very best that we can for our students, and I'm honored to be on the Foundation Board." Welcome to Jennifer! ★

Bart Qualsett Replaces Dave Simmons on FPS Foundation Board

Dave Simmons, former President and CEO of Fremont National Bank, and member of the initial Board of Directors of the Fremont Public School Foundation, has accepted a position in senior management with the First National Bank of Nebraska. In his new position, Simmons will be spending most of his time in Colorado, and has resigned his position on the FPS Foundation Board. The Foundation Board accepted Simmons resignation with regret at their October meeting. Simmons was a key organizer of the Foundation, served as its first president, and was a valued contributor to the early success of the Fremont Public School Foundation. The FPS Foundation Board publicly acknowledges his important contributions to the Foundation, and wishes him well in his new position.

Simmons' term on the Board will be filled by Bart Qualsett, who replaces Simmons as President of Fremont National Bank. Qualsett and his wife, Lisa, have two children attending Fremont Public Schools. Bart stresses his dedication to a strong and growing Fremont community, and notes that "part of Fremont's strength lies within our public school system." In addition to a long list of community service activities, Bart has been a certified high school basketball official, and has officiated for a number of years at the state basketball tournament. Welcome to Bart! ★

Former Principal, Assistant Superintendent Dies

Dr. Roger Rohlfs, former Fremont High Principal and Assistant Superintendent of Schools, died January 27th at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha at age 65. He had been battling cancer for several years.

Rohlfs served as principal of Fremont High School from 1975-1982, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction from 1982 until 1997. During his tenure as Assistant Superintendent, a comprehensive curriculum model was developed, and elements of it are still in use. Funeral Services were held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Fremont.

WW II Tribute Back on Display (continued from page 1)

plaque is now hanging proudly on the second floor of the Main Street Education and Administration Center at 9th and Main Street for all to see.

One remaining mystery about the plaque has to do with the individual name plates. Forty five of the name plates contain a star, while two do not. Efforts to learn the significance of the stars by the names have not been successful so far. If there are readers who can shed some light on this mystery, we would be happy to know about it, and would then share the information in the next edition of the Cornerstone. ★

Foundation Launches Initial Annual Campaign

A March 19th news conference marked the kick-off of the Fremont Public School Foundation's first Annual Sustaining Fund Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$40,000, which will provide funding to operate the office of the Foundation for one year, and will also add \$10,000 to its endowment fund.

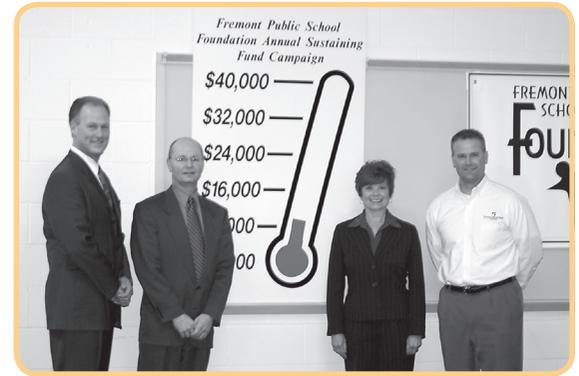
The Campaign received a huge boost from Fremont's major financial institutions, with Fremont National Bank making a "Cornerstone" level donation of \$5,000 and American National Bank and First State Bank both making "Pathfinder" level donations of \$2,500 each. With those major lead gifts, and with gifts that have been received in the Foundation Office, the campaign total is currently standing at over \$32,000, over two thirds of the way to reaching its goal. Foundation Executive Director, Dr. David Pinkall, noted that it would be fitting to reach the campaign goal by the time school is dismissed for the summer on May 21. ★

2007 Golf Tourney Has Perfect Day

Temperatures in the 80's and a high cloud cover easily made for the best weather yet for the 2007 Fremont Public School Foundation Golf Tournament, which was held on August 3rd at the Fremont Golf Club. Fifteen teams made up of FPS Foundation supporters enjoyed the perfect day, and the perfectly manicured Fremont Golf Club Championship Course.

A team from the FHS class of 1986 used the tournament as an opportunity to get old friends together for a day of fun. Curt Polzin, Mark Gilbreath, Tim Ferguson, and John Clarke enjoyed a great day, with Gilbreath driving in all the way from Des Moines and Polzin from Lincoln for a fun day in Fremont with FHS friends. They plan to make this an annual event, and encourage other groups to do the same.

The first flight was won by a team made up of Dr. Greg Haskins, Dave Pimper, Roger Bender and Dave Williams. Second place was a team made up of Jake Reilly, Cody Warden, Steve Barr and Bill Lamme. Second flight honors were taken by the team of Steve Hull, Steve Navarrette Jeff Miller and Brian Herrera, followed by the team of Dave Roh, Bill Eaton, Gene Martin and John Morehouse. ★



Present for the first annual Sustaining Fund Campaign were from left: Scott Meister, Vice President of American National Bank; Chuck Johannsen, President of First State Bank; Jane Dugan, President of FPS Foundation; and Bart Qualsett, President of Fremont National Bank.

Register Now for 2008 Golf Tourney!

The 2008 Fremont Public School Foundation Golf Tournament has been set for Friday, August 8th at the Fremont Golf Club. The event will be a four person scramble with a 10:00 a.m. shotgun start. The cost of the event is \$100 for non-members and \$75 for FGC members. The registration fee includes green fees, golf cart, pin prizes, prizes by flights, complimentary drinks and dinner. Register early to reserve your place in this fun event.

With the advent of the Annual Sustaining Fund Campaign, all proceeds from this year's tournament will be designated for the Creative Teaching Endowment Fund. Call the Foundation Office to register your foursome. Payment is due in the Foundation Office by August 5. It's a great day, and a fun way to support the Fremont Public School Foundation!



Honored members of the class of 2008 with General Lempke.

Graduating Seniors, Parents Honored

Forty members of the FHS class of 2008 were honored along with their mentors and parents at the annual Fremont Public School Foundation Academic Achievement Banquet, held on April 13th at Midland Lutheran College. Lt. Gen. Roger P. Lempke, retired adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard, and current executive director of the Platte Institute for Economic Research, was the guest speaker. Lempke told the audience two things he doesn't miss since retiring in November—sending men and women off to war

and constant travel to Washington. Lempke said that the current group of young people serving in the Armed Services compare favorably to the "Greatest Generation" who fought World War II. According to Lempke, their commitment and professionalism sets them apart, and he predicted that they will also be remembered as a great generation. The honored students have maintained a 3.75 GPA or higher while taking the most rigorous curriculum offered by the Fremont Public Schools. ★

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