

FALL NEWSLETTER

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**GEF Proud Recipient of \$3,000
AT&T Innovation Award at GHS**



Nearly 500 students from GHS traveled by bus to area businesses on October 16 to learn about careers in manufacturing, health care, education, marketing and more during the first annual **“Career Exploration Day.”** 14 area business participated in the program.

The new program, made possible thanks to a **\$3,000 AT&T Wisconsin Innovation & Investment Award**, is a collaboration of the Grafton Education Foundation (GEF) and the Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to connect students with local businesses to provide them with experiences and information as they think about their career and education plans.

“The GEF believes in ‘Quality Schools, Together,’” said Bob Hoffman, GEF President. *“Thanks to AT&T, this award will help us live our mission of connecting the community and businesses to our Grafton schools. I am hopeful this is just the first of many grants from local businesses that the Foundation can use to fund other Grafton School District programs.”*

**GEF’s
Grants in Action!**



**Thank You!
Author/Illustrator Visit**

“There is nothing more rewarding for an author than seeing and hearing that their books are being read, enjoyed, discussed and read again.” Tedd Arnold

The Foundation is proud to share the following thank you note we received after Tedd Arnold’s visit.

Dear GEF members:

On behalf of every single elementary student in the Grafton School District, I would like to extend a huge, heart-felt THANK YOU for the grant that helped bring author and illustrator Tedd Arnold to our schools! He did two fantastic presentations at each of the schools over a 2 day period, and the kids were thrilled. In the words of one second grader, *“I loved Tedd Arnold. He is so cool!!!”* He was funny, engaging, and everything he talked about tied into our current reading and writing curriculum perfectly. Thank you so much for making this possible.

Sincerely, Valerie Mallmann

GEF Board Member Spotlight—Karen Walton



Karen, a 25 year elementary school teacher, has been an active participant in the GEF since its inception and is serving her second term on the board. *“I have seen the benefits of an education foundation in the district I teach in”,* said Karen, *“so I was honored to be asked to participate on the steering committee that led to the formation of the Foundation. My favorite part of the GEF is the prize patrol. I love being able to help teachers make great things happen for the students in the district. I’ve met wonderful people through the GEF and feel privileged to be a part of the organization.”* Karen has a daughter at Woodview and a son at John Long. She loves to camp and canoe, especially in the Boundary Waters. Thank you Karen for your tireless commitment and dedication to the GEF!

Mayday! SOS! Help! An Appeal From Our President

The Grafton Education Foundation was organized by a small group of citizens convinced that if Grafton students are to succeed in the classroom, additional funding must be raised to support their education. The GEF has realized remarkable growth since its incorporation. Over \$64,000 has been distributed to the Grafton School District by the Foundation over the years – \$61,000 to fund grants to classroom teachers and \$3,000 to fund GHS's recent Career Exploration Day.



Many citizens have joined our effort to fuel the growth of the GEF. But additional staff is needed to help with the many committees that organize our five major fund raisers. We are also looking for someone to help us reorganize and improve our data base of almost 2,000 contacts. Most importantly, people are needed to serve on the Board of Directors replacing several of the original members of the board whose term of office will expire soon. Continued good leadership in many areas is needed to lead the Grafton Education Foundation into the future.

Do you want to play an important role in helping Grafton students succeed in the classroom? If you have questions or would like to learn more about the Grafton Education Foundation, please call me or any member of the GEF Board of Directors listed in this newsletter. I am available to meet with you to discuss our activities in more detail. You can also attend one of our monthly meetings that are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the Grafton High School Library Media Center.

Bob Hoffman, President Grafton Education Foundation
262-377-9325

A Reminder to our "Soupor" Supporters

Save the Date for our **Second Annual**



Friday, January 24th – 6:00 p.m.

Grafton Pub & Bowl

Admission*: \$35 in Advance—\$40 at Door

Last year's event was a blast and our **Second Annual Soup Bowl** promises to be even better!

Soup Sampling! Live Music! Bucket Raffle!
Golden Apple Draw! 9 Pin Tap Tournament!
Professionally-Called Live Auction!

**And ... A Chance to Win ...
\$10,000 in our Reverse Raffle Drawing!**

Yes ... a lot will be happening ...
BUT THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!

So mark January 24th on your calendar ...
Start building your 9 Pin Tap Team ... and
Invite your friends and family to join us in the fun!

*GEF will choose one lucky winner to receive free admission to **Soupor Bowl 2**. All you need do is answer the following question correctly, email your answer to info@graftoneducationfoundation.org and you will be entered into the pool of names that correctly answered the question. We will draw the winner from that pool of names.

Think hard ... the question is tough:

Who is president of the Grafton Education Foundation?

Hint: Look left ← ← ←

2013 Inaugural **Seeds to Harvest** Annual Giving Campaign

In 2013 GEF awarded \$25,000 in grants to district staff to help fund their great ideas. Yet we received an additional \$20,000 in grant requests that we could not fund simply because we ran out of money. So now, we are coming to you. Our community. Will you help us bridge the gap? Your contribution will become the seed that will grow into great ideas that will be harvested next spring when we issue our grants for the 2014-15 school year. Every gift counts. Whether you give \$10 or \$100, it all adds up for some amazing opportunities for the future leaders of our community.

The Foundation accepts secure online credit card donations via PayPal. Just click the "**Donate**" button at: www.graftoneducationfoundation.org. Or if you prefer, make your check payable to Grafton Education Foundation and mail it to: 1900 Washington Street Grafton, WI 53024.

Thank You For Your Support!

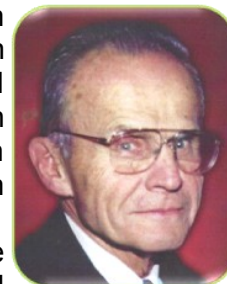
We **believe** that students become active citizens of the global community
by **engaging** in challenging and **inspiring** learning experiences.

2013 Inductees to the Grafton High School Hall of Fame



Dr. John Burfeind graduated in 1985 as class valedictorian with a 4.0 grade point average. He participated in athletics, experiencing success in football, basketball and track. He was a starter on the varsity football team, playing on teams that twice went to the state championship. He was named to the All-State football team in 1984 and garnered the WIAA Scholar Athlete Award in 1985. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1993. After completing an internship at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, he completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in hematology/oncology, both at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He was named Best Teaching Fellow in 1998 at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Upon graduation, he practiced hematology and medical oncology in Oregon and was named Best Teaching Faculty in 2002. He returned to the Milwaukee area in 2003 and for 7 years practiced at St. Mary's Ozaukee, developing the Columbia-St. Mary's oncology program by serving as the Chairman of the Cancer Committee and running the Tumor Board. Presently, he is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, specializing in genitourinary oncology.

Mr. Gene Schmit, a 1953 GHS graduate, played basketball, baseball and 6-man football and was a member of the drama and discussion clubs. Following graduation, he and his father established a local realty and auctioneering business now known as Gene W. Schmit, Realtor and Auctioneer. Gene is an active member of the Grafton Lions Club, St. Joseph's parish, Rose-Harms American Legion and the Grafton Chamber of Commerce. He truly cares about Grafton and gives his time and financial support whenever possible. He is the recipient of numerous honors including both Grafton and Port Washington Citizen of the Year; the Lions International Foundation's Melvin Jones Fellowship and Birch-Sturm Fellowship awards; and the Port Washington Humanitarian Award. He was recognized for his service on the Town of Grafton Plan Commission in 2001 and was named Business Person of the Year in 2004. In 2008, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Auctioneer Hall of Fame, and in 2011 he was inducted to the Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame. Gene takes pride in the accomplishments of his family, is dedicated to his church and community, and helps to keep Grafton a wonderful place to raise children. He shies away from recognition, giving the Grafton community the credit for providing the foundation for his humble generosity.



Mr. Gregory Thome, a 1984 GHS graduate, is a diplomat who has worked overseas for most of the past 25 years to defend American national interests and to protect the rights of American citizens abroad. At the time of induction, Greg was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon, responsible for coordinating all Embassy operations. At GHS, Greg was a member of the National Honor Society and won six athletic letters in cross country and track. He also represented Grafton at Badger Boy State. After graduating from UW-Madison in 1988 Greg joined the Peace Corps and in 1991, he joined the U.S. Department of State in Washington. President George H.W. Bush signed his commission as a Foreign Service Officer in 1992. Since then, he has served overseas at U.S. Embassies on five continents. In 2008, he volunteered for duty at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, serving on a large team that, as part of the "Surge" policy, coordinated the transfer of American economic and development assistance activities from U.S. military personnel to U.S. government civilian agencies. Greg has also served in various capacities at U.S. diplomatic posts in Finland; Guyana; Brazil; and Gabon. He worked at the State Department in Washington for six years as well. Greg speaks Portuguese, French, Spanish, Bissau-Guinean Creole and Finnish.



The *GHS Hall of Fame* was initiated in 2010 and now has 10 distinguished inductees. *The Hall of Fame* was established to recognize the outstanding lifetime achievements of GHS graduates and to provide inspirational role models for the current students and members of the community.

- We are actively seeking postal and email addresses for all Grafton alumni and potential *Friends of the Foundation*. If you have acquaintances you feel would like to receive our communications, please share their addresses with us.

