



COUGAR COURIER



NORTH PUTNAM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

September 2015

Vol. 1, No. 1

ASSOCIATION REVAMPS MISSION

The North Putnam Alumni Association has moved the Annual Alumni Banquet to the Fall for the purposes of stimulating interest and attendance. The banquet will coincide with a football game against rival South Putnam to increase the association's ability to participate in the school's festivities as well as improve outreach.

This year, the Annual Alumni Banquet will be held on September 19th. The After Party will be hosted by Harrison Street Tavern in Russellville. Registration needs to be completed by September 5th and can be done through the North Putnam Community Schools website by clicking on the Alumni tab or using the Alumni website.

During the banquet, the Alumni Association will honor the classes of 1970, 1975, 1985, 1995, and 2005. The Association's award for Honorary Alumni will be given to Anne McKeehan, Nancy Ford Michael, and Larry Tippin. The association will recognize the 2015 scholarship award winner, Samantha Flannelly.

Finally, the Alumni Association has an exciting announcement to make and will use the banquet as a formal kickoff for the new Donor Advised Endowment. By partnering with the Putnam County Community Foundation, the Alumni Association has begun the process of creating this endowment to fund programs, student groups, and events at North Putnam. To establish this endowment, the North Putnam Alumni Association will raise \$12,000.

In the initial fundraising period, from August 2015 through April 2017, the Alumni Association has created a Founders Club. Any entity, family, or individual donating at least \$1,000 will be a Founding Club member and included on a plaque at North Putnam High School. The Alumni Association looks forward to highlighting this new phase in the organization at the Alumni Banquet.

Table of Contents

Association Revamps Mission

By Neal Knapp, 2004

North Putnam Reflections

By Dr. Carol Hostetter, 1972

Alumni Association Honors Graduate

By Lauren Johnston, 2016

North Putnam Builds Greenhouse

By Joanie Buser Knapp, 1978

Officers

President- Landon Brothers, 2002

Vice President- Jerilyn Smith Ross, 1980

Treasurer- Larry Tippin, 1975

Secretary- Jana Porter Brothers, 1972

Webmaster- Amy Harper Reid, 2001

www.northputnamalumniassociation.com/

Contact Information:

North Putnam High School Alumni

P.O. Box 193

Bainbridge, Indiana 46105

info@northputnamalumniassociation.com

NORTH PUTNAM REFLECTIONS

By Dr. Carol Hostetter

I was a freshman in high school in 1969. I learned that year that I would not follow in the path walked by my sister and brother – I would not graduate from Roachdale High School. “RHS All Hail to Thee” would not be the song played at basketball games any more. I would not root for the Roachdale Hawks. Instead, I had to share a new school with those “hated” rivals from Bainbridge and Russellville. Our school colors would be blue and orange – who had heard of such a deviation from IU’s red and white, or Purdue’s gold and black? It sounded horrible. Yes, it would be a new building, but it wouldn’t be in our town. It wouldn’t be in anyone’s town. It would be in a cornfield. How humiliating, to my 15-year-old mind.

So many changes happened that year and the following year as my class became sophomores at “North Put,” joining our Roachdale 40 with enough “new” students to have over 100 in my graduating class. And as you may have guessed, we soon fell in love with our new school. We had speech contests and other new clubs, better basketball teams, more theater productions, a wonderful marching band, and even a jazz band! We enjoyed so many more opportunities in every part of school, the best of which were the friendships we made. I loved meeting the girls from Bainbridge and Russellville, and the boys weren’t bad either. We built something, in those early years of North Putnam. But what had we built, who built it and how was it built?

The “who” and the “where” are the easy part. It took townspeople, parents, administrators, teachers, and students to build it, and they built it in the heart of Putnam County. The center of the heartland, in fact. As a child, I observed the building of our

community. Is it any wonder that I grew up to research the question of how to build community?

The first step to building community is to have an environment that is safe enough for people to be themselves, to show who they really are. I spoke to several people in different areas of North Putnam to ask them what they loved about growing up and living in the area. They all said it was the freedom to explore, play and “run loose” while growing up. There’s a word for it now, called “Free Range Parenting.” In the country of Wales, there is actually a park just for children, providing land, water and junk where children can explore and develop. But these “new ideas” have met with controversy and criticism because, let’s face it, children face a lot of dangers in the world. In the small towns and rural areas of North Putnam, however, children can still run free, because other adults know them, know their families, and watch out for them. I’m not saying there is never pain and there are never problems. But the children are known, as individuals and as community members.

Being “known” leads to knowing others. This social interaction leads to a “shared language,” the kind we recognize when we tell a story to someone who doesn’t quite get it and we say, “You had to be there.” The shared language and shared experiences lead to a common culture, filled with shared ways of speaking and shared ways of doing things. It’s the sense of place and who we are as a people within that place that makes a place a community.

North Putnam is a community without the usual borders marked by city lines on a map. It’s a community with a common culture based on mutual respect and mutual understanding. It’s a community that loves its children by giving them a safe place to learn who they are. North Putnam is about being there, and being there together.

Carol Hostetter, PhD

Professor

Indiana University School of Social Work

Cougar Courier, Vol. 1, No. 1

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS GRADUATE

By Lauren Johnston

Alex Land, a 2014 North Putnam graduate and co-Valedictorian is currently attending Indiana Wesleyan University majoring in Accounting and Finance. She was a North Putnam Alumni Scholarship recipient, and as a result, she has been able to attend the school of her dreams.



By receiving this scholarship, she has been able to focus on the classroom and enjoy her first year of college. She is currently involved in intramural basketball and soccer, IWU Community of Accountants, and Mathematical Academia Consortium. She currently volunteers at the St. Martin Community Center and also works as a University IT office assistant and as a campus math tutor. While juggling all of these activities, she has been named a member of the Dean's list, maintained a 4.00 GPA, and is Treasurer of the

Indiana Wesleyan University Community of Accountants (IWUCA).

Alex is grateful for the wonderful job North Putnam did in preparing her for college. She is appreciative of the amazing support system she has had in her hometown. After attending college, she has learned that not all communities have such a strong foundation, stating "Putnam County definitely fosters quality, long lasting, and encouraging relationships."

At Indiana Wesleyan, Alex is pursuing Managerial Accounting and Personal Finance. Following graduation, she would like to find a position at either a manufacturing company or small accounting firm.

Alex is incredibly honored by receiving the scholarship and feels like she has gained a great support system within the North Putnam Alumni Association.



Alex, on the left, at the 2014 Alumni Banquet with fellow award winners, Bennett Hazelgrove and Gwendolyn Mazur.

NORTH PUTNAM BUILDS GREENHOUSE

By Joanie Knapp

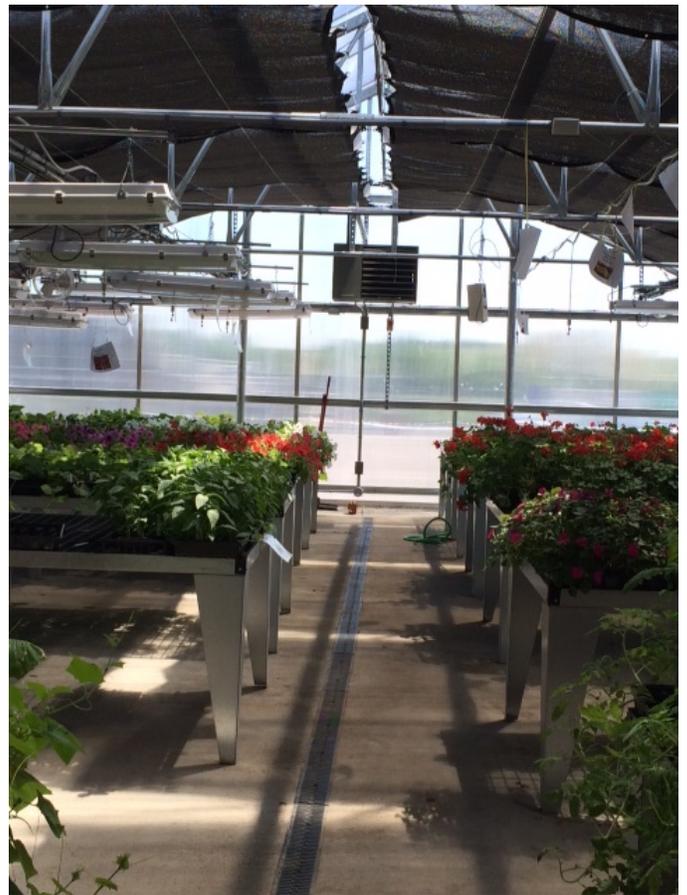
The grand opening of the brand new North Putnam greenhouse was May 2nd. It was constructed beside the original greenhouse behind the high school. The new structure is 30 by 60 feet and consists of a swamp system, fans that regulate and stabilize the temperature, and an irrigation system.

Mrs. Skirvin and Ms. Oxford, the agriculture teachers, are busy putting their plans into action to fully utilize the greenhouse.



This next school year, the Horticulture classes will be responsible for planting, maintaining, and managing the plants that will be grown. Some of the plants that will be produced include mums in the fall, poinsettias at Christmas, Easter lilies, annual flowers, and fruit and vegetable plants next spring—all of which will be available for purchase. North Putnam FFA will be funding this project.

At the end of the school year any remaining plants will be donated to community farms in the area. The greenhouse will be a great agricultural resource in the community, and at the same time an instrumental educational program that will provide excellent work experience for students that will prepare them for the future.



“We are dedicated to promoting the fellowship
Of all former students, friends, and teachers
Associated with North Putnam High School
By preserving the history of the school,
Supporting its present activities, and laying
The foundation for a successful future.”