

What is the Alumni Association?

MVS prides itself on cutting edge programs, such as Immersion and project period. But in some areas, the school has lagged behind. After several years of growth in alumni relations and an awareness of models from successful programs at other independent schools, the time is right to introduce the MVS Alumni Association. The association is basically an organized and empowered network of alumni. All MVS alumni (graduates and non-graduates alike) have automatic membership. These are exciting times for MVS, and its alumni are a critical component of its success.

At an April, 2005 alumni retreat, several local alumni met with Starr Snead, executive director of the Advancement Program Council. Snead has had a variety of experiences in the independent school world - as a teacher, a headmaster, an alumni director – but she specializes in energizing alumni programs. With Snead's recommendations, a steering committee of alumni led by Dave Montgomery ('90) and Matt Arnovitz ('78) met over the summer to establish a mission statement, a charter, and a survey for the association. Agendas, minutes, the mission statement, and the charter can be viewed on the MVS website on the alumni page (www.mvschool.com) under "Alumni Association."

Alumni input is an important part of designing the Alumni Association objectives and priorities. If you are an alum and have not already done so, please take a few moments to click on this link and complete this survey about MVS alumni relations: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=60801440474> As an extra incentive, each of you who return a completed survey will be entered into a prize drawing.

With a focus on development, community, fundraising and events, the association hopes to strengthen and empower the alumni network. The association will be governed by a core Alumni Council, consisting of no more than 15 elected members. All members of the association are eligible for nomination to the council and eligible to vote upon its members.

The steering committee of the Alumni Association has become the Alumni Council's first class. Current members are Matt Arnovitz ('78), Mitch Eloff ('79), Scott MacDonald ('84), Jon Freeman ('86), Heidi Breidenbach Freeman ('88), Marcus Jenkins ('88), Jenell Ross ('88), Dave Montgomery ('90), Sam Winston ('94), Jill Hanning ('96), Lauren Lichenstein ('00), and Dori Handel ('03). As the Alumni Association Council, our hope is to facilitate the involvement of alumni at every level. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact the Advancement Office at 937-434-1848 or email advancement@mvschool.com.

One of the greatest qualities of MVS has always been the ability for everyone to be involved and make a difference. The same is true for MVS alumni. We welcome your feedback and invite you to have a meaningful role within the Alumni Association, regardless of when you attended MVS or where you are located now. Thanks for your interest and stay tuned for more Alumni Association news!