



# LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC



As the year of service provided by our 2020-2021 Campaign Chair family comes to an end, we asked some members of the Willman-Dablow family to engage with us at Legacy NAFC one last time. They went far beyond any expectations, joining in on both “Looking Back” and “Looking Forward”.

Looking Back, we invite you to become acquainted once again with the broad impact this small army of educators and other high achievers have brought to the NAFC school system. The information provided below appeared in a direct mail campaign piece last August, but it has never been published here in our electronic newsletter. Whether you’re one of the newcomers to our readership over the last few months... or someone who has been with us since last summer, take a look at the talents of these great people. You’ll almost surely learn anew or re-learn something about them.

*-Rex Bickers, FCHS '70, guest contributor for Alumni Spotlight*

# 2020/2021 Legacy NAFC Chairs

## The Willman/Dablow Family

*Looking back...*

The Willman/Dablow family is honored to be the first chairs of the LEGACY NAFC Campaign. There has been a Willman buzzing around the halls of NAFCS every year since 1946! Passion and excitement for NAFCS shines and there is no shortage of Highlander and Bulldog pride in the Willman/Dablow family.

**Janey Willman (NAHS '67)** is a retired Speech Therapist and Special Education Facilitator. Janey received her degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy from Purdue University and Masters from Indiana University. Janey continues to show her excitement for NAFCS by attending her grandchildren's school activities and showing her support for the referendum and the School Safety Plan.

**Marietta Willman** began her involvement with NAFCS in 1976. She dedicated her time to teaching art courses and being an aide to teachers. She and her late husband, John Willman, ensured students and fellow faculty were taken care of, whether it was clothing for students in need or a bowl of soup when a staff member was sick. Marietta treasures the conversations she had with students and is grateful for the family-like faculty that helped during her cancer journey.

**Rob Willman (FC '88)** is the Principal at Floyd Central High School. Prior to taking the role, he was a teacher at St. X High School and FCHS where he was also the Wrestling Coach. His wife, Megan, has also served NAFCS as support staff and PTO President at Floyds Knobs Elementary. Rob says leading Floyd Central has been a great honor and is thankful for the partnerships he has with NAHS.

**Alys Willman (FC '92)** is a graduate of DePauw University and has her PhD in Economics/Urban Policy. After college, she spent time traveling the world and fighting social injustices. She and her family now reside in Georgia on their farm. Alys is grateful for the educators who ensured that she aspired to higher educational goals.

**John Dablow (NAHS '94)** is the Athletic Director at Silver Creek High School. He is a graduate of Hanover College and Purdue University. John enjoys spending time with his wife and three children. He strongly believes the education at NAFCS helped him prepare for his professional career in education.

**Joe Dablow (NAHS '96)** and his wife, Jennifer McCullough Dablow, are high school sweethearts. Joe is known for starting the famous, "D-O-G-S Dogs, Dogs, Dogs!" cheer in 1996. Jennifer served as Vice President of the Grant Line PTO and held various fundraising roles. Joe is currently the Executive Director for Student Success at U of L. They continue to be active in volunteering for their three children's schools.

**Jessy Spainhour (NAHS '99)** started working at NAHS in 2005 in Special Education, and is now a Guidance Counselor. She was the starting center that won the Bulldogs the 1999 Girls State Basketball Championship. She is a graduate of Purdue University and Indiana University Southeast. Jessy and her family live outside of the district but chose to send their children to NAFCS to continue the family legacy.

**Lucas Willman (FC '17)** has advanced his education since this profile was initially shared with the readership of this newsletter. Lucas graduated in December from Loyola University Chicago and has been accepted into the Indiana University School of Public Policy, where he will begin his coursework this fall.

**Trace Willman (FC '20)** is the latest Willman to graduate from NAFCS. Trace enters his second year at IU and is a student manager for IU Football, where he was able to work all summer. Trace has fond memories as a football player, including winning sectionals.

## Looking forward...

Because they are modest, we won't name names, but several members from the two families pitched in to help us with "Looking Forward". In the first ten issues of Alumni Spotlight, we have had a look at twenty legends from NAHS and FCHS (plus its legacy older sister, Georgetown High School, 1914-1967). There have been ten from each school, spanning five decades.

We wondered about "the legends of the future", and so we asked members of the two families... could they identify some "Rising Stars" from just the last decade, give or take a year or two?

The names they shared are really exceptional individuals. It was challenging to prepare a brief "mini-profile" for all ten of them.

If you think we have introduced you to fascinating Bulldogs and Highlanders in the past year, you will almost surely be inspired and impressed to meet these great young alumni from NAHS and FCHS today.



### **Major Ricke, NAHS 2012**

Major is a fifth-generation son of New Albany and a third-generation Bulldog. Members of his family tree include his grandfather Francis "Bud" Ricke '39 and parents, Michael and Tammie (Appelhaus) Ricke, both '78.

He earned his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Naval Academy (2017), majoring in nuclear engineering and minoring in Russian. He first served on the guided-missile destroyer USS Farragut, deployed in Northern Europe and the Arctic Ocean, as a Surface Warfare Officer. He subsequently completed Nuclear Training School in Charleston (SC) and he is currently a Lieutenant, serving on the aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford as a Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer.



### **Brigid Morrissey, FCHS 2010**

Brigid attended Furman University. She captained women's basketball her junior and senior years, earning her BFA (Fine Arts) degree in graphic design (2014). While gaining work experience in writing and digital marketing, she honed her interest in co-working space as a concept. She founded Quilted Media (a marketing company), then doubled down her dreams for career (and social) change, becoming the co-founder of The Root Co-Working Space. She is convinced that community creativity can flourish there, while startup businesses are nurtured also. Occupying a 19th century (Market Street) building, The Root is undergoing 21st-century revitalization, just as its independent workers and artists seek a new tomorrow there.



### **Bailey Duff, NAHS 2016**

Bailey was awarded a Civic Scholarship through the Jesse H. and Beulah Chanley Cox Scholars program, created in 2005 through two personal gifts: \$70 million from an anonymous donor and \$15 million from the widower Jesse Cox. This was the single largest personal gift ever made for financial aid at Indiana University. The Cox Civic Scholarship places a strong emphasis on serving the community, and provides for hardworking Indiana residents who are incoming freshmen, are academically strong, and have a commitment to service.

Through her role as a Cox Civic Scholar, Bailey was energetically devoted to three different programs in Monroe County, both inside and outside the IU campus. She earned her undergraduate degree (2020), majoring in healthcare management and policy, minoring in human resources. She is now an analyst with the Performance Improvement Team at Nordic Consulting Partners in Madison, Wisconsin.



### **Dan Wavle, FCHS 2011**

Dan began his undergraduate education at IU Bloomington, as an awardee of a Cox Research Scholarship, majoring in astronomy and physics. The Cox Research Scholars Program is one of the six different opportunities made possible by the Cox Endowment fund, mentioned above. This program opened the door for him to engage in summer work at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. After some graduate work in astrophysics and data science, Dan received his certification to teach mathematics and physics through the Advance to Teaching Program at IU Southeast, and he now teaches at Floyd Central. Dan enjoys teaching math with an emphasis on modern computing and problem solving, with many big plans still in the pipeline.



## **Danielle Cook, NAHS 2014**

Danielle's two greatest interests in high school were math and science. Almost equally important to her was a commitment to fitness, with a particular passion for the Riley Dance Marathon "For The Kids". She earned her undergraduate degree in the Mathematical Sciences department at Ball State University (2018). She was also active as a Zumba instructor there. Since college, she has found a convergence of these interests in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, She has been a member (biostatistician) of the Orthopedic Surgery Research team, co-authoring five scientific publications. She has also remained active in community service through Greater Boston Young Professionals Kiwanis, serving as the current president.



## **Amy Harpenau Miller, FCHS 2007**

Amy earned her undergraduate degree at Ball State University (2011), majoring in musical theatre and dance, and subsequently a Master's degree in education from IUS. She is currently in her eighth year as Producing Director of Theatre Arts at New Albany High School, and now, she is the mother of a newborn infant daughter! Between Ball State and today, she has performed, directed and choreographed her way on to stages across a broad swath of our part of the US. She serves as a board member for TheatreWorks of Southern Indiana. Her latest undertaking is the completion of the certification requirements to obtain an administrator's (principal's) license.

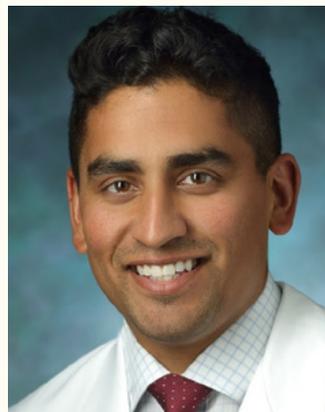
We close out this review of tomorrow's leaders with a "two-fer" from NAHS and likewise from FCHS.



### **Jordan Striegel and Madison Baumann Striegel, NAHS 2012**

Jordan earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Louisville (2016) and completed dental school at U of L also. He has recently joined the dental practice of Dr. Stephen Farnsley. With Dr. Farnsley's plans for retirement, the practice is re-launching with the name Striegel Family Dentistry. Madison earned her undergraduate degree in nursing from Indiana University. She is currently a student once again (IUPUI), where she expects to earn her Master's degree with the intention of obtaining certification as a Nurse Practitioner.

Of all the "Rising Stars" profiled in this issue of Legacy Ledger, Jordan and Madison have the distinction of completing their entire public school career together... at Grantline Elementary and at Scribner Middle School before becoming Bulldog classmates.



### **Tej Azad, FCHS 2009 and Ameer Azad, FCHS 2011**

Tej earned his undergraduate degree (2012) at Washington University, summa cum laude, double majoring (biology, neuroscience) in three years. At Stanford University, he earned a Master's degree in Biomedical Informatics and his medical degree (M.D.) in six years after a gap year in research. He is currently beginning his third year at Johns Hopkins in neurosurgery residency with dozens of publications and two funded

research grants already awarded. He aspires to conquer some of the problems of brain tumors. I really believe that betting against him reaching his goals would be a BIG mistake.

Until this summer, Ameer's training path has been nearly identical to her brother's earning the same three degrees: undergraduate at Washington University, Master's degree and M.D. from Stanford. Her graduate degree is in epidemiology and health outcomes. Earlier this month, she began her residency in ophthalmology at Harvard / Mass General. She aims to pursue subspecialty training in surgery of the orbit, eyelids and parts of the face around the eye (called oculoplastic surgery).

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# Education Foundation Welcomes New Teachers with \$100 Each



We had a fun morning meeting the 60 new teachers joining NAFCS at the new teacher orientation! The NAFC Education Foundation awarded each educator with a \$100 gift certificate to Teachers Pay Teachers to help them classroom resources for the year ahead. We appreciate all they do and wish them the best of luck with the rest of the school year!

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# Play FORE! Education Golf Scramble Results



We had a great day at Champions Pointe for our 13th annual Assured Partners Play FORE! Education Golf Scramble. Over \$57,000 was raised for NAFC students, teachers, and schools. Thank you so much to all our sponsors, players, and volunteers!

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## Education Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



The Education Foundation welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors, Tish Thomas-Frederick and David Bauer! We thank you for your service!

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**NOT A MEMBER YET?**

# LEGACY NAFC

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LEGACY  
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The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not for profit organization which works in conjunction with NAFC Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. NAFC Alumni Nation is an alumni program of the NAFC Education Foundation. Legacy NAFC is the official support group of NAFC Schools, NAFC Alumni Nation, and the NAFC Education Foundation.



[www.NAFCEdFoundation.org](http://www.NAFCEdFoundation.org)

<https://nafcalumni.nationbuilder.com/>

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