



HALL OF FAME

MARCH 14, 2026





Maroa-Forsyth Foundation & Archives
presents the
**2026 HALL OF FAME BANQUET AND
BENEFIT**

Welcome: Tina Horve, Maroa-Forsyth Foundation & Archives
President

Celebrating Athletic Achievements

Brenna Finck
Elston Mitchell

Continuing the Tradition of Excellence: Brice Stewart, High School
Principal

Celebrating Community Contributions

TJ Painter
Leann (Sechrest) Shuering
Nelson R. Smith, Jr.

Dessert Dash

Celebrating our Faculty

Brenda Livingood

A New Legacy for Tomorrow: Adam Ibbotson, Superintendent

Celebrating Our Teams

2005-06 Boys Basketball Team
2012 Softball Team

Closing Remarks: Adam Ibbotson, Superintendent



The Maroa Foundation & Archives HOF Committee would like to thank the following people for all of their contributions. Without their help, this evening would not have been possible.

Phil Applebee for having the vision for a Hall of Fame for the Maroa-Forsyth School District.

Kevin Koslofski (class of 1984) for providing introductions for all of our Hall of Fame inductees.

Evan Hall with Mike Hall Auction Co. for providing auctioneer services for our live auction.

Isaiah Bohlmann (current student) for designing our program cover.

Katie Nilles (current student) for providing music during cocktail hour and dinner.

HS art teacher, Ashlyn Britz, for working with her Graphic Design class on designing our program cover.

HS National Honor Society sponsor, Dawn Mann, for working with the NHS students to help during our event.

Cassie Crouch and her students for the beautiful table decorations and for making the Hall of Fame Plaques as well as helping during our event.

Bob Dahlke and VisoGraphics for the programs

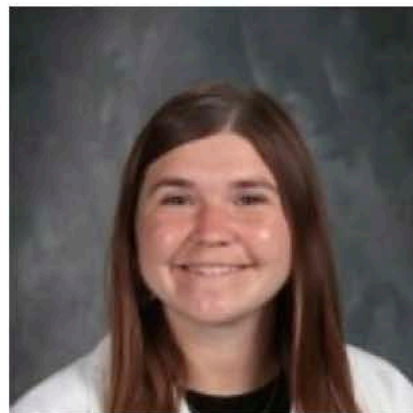
The Maroa-Forsyth Hall of Fame board for selecting this year's inductees

The Maroa-Forsyth Foundation & Archives board and members for their support.



BRENNA FINCK

Brenna Finck is a member of the 2015 class and played basketball and softball all four years of her high school career. In softball, she helped lead the Trojans to 3 Okaw Valley Conference titles and the 2012 regional softball championship. In 2013 and 2014, Brenna received All-Macon County and All-Okaw Valley honors as well as made the Illinois Coaches Association All-State Second Team. Brenna went on to play softball at Murray State University from 2016–2019. She proved her talent by starting every game across four years, leading her team in runs, stolen bases, and multi-hit games over multiple seasons. She is the all-time leader in career assists and broke two school records: single-season hits and career triples. Brenna was an NFCA All-American Scholar-Athlete and received multiple All-Conference and All-Region honors during her time at Murray State.





BRENDA LIVINGOOD

Brenda Livingood has been a fixture in Maroa-Forsyth athletics and the community as a teacher and coach. She attended Millikin University, where she was the first woman in school history to qualify for two national track meets in javelin. During her time at Maroa-Forsyth, Brenda founded the MFHS softball program, where she coached 70+ winning games in 5 seasons and captured two regional titles. Brenda also served as the MFHS volleyball head coach for 9 years, with a 169-77 record and 4 regional titles during her tenure. She has received multiple awards, including 1990 Macon County Volleyball Coach of the year, 1991 Macon County Softball Coach of the Year, and the 2006 YMCA Women of Excellence "Harriet Kirby Athletic Award." Brenda went on to coach middle school volleyball, softball, and track and became an influential leader in the Maroa Youth League. Brenda retired in 2019 but continues to be a lifelong advocate for equality in girls' sports. She is widely recognized for her time, effort, and passion invested in Maroa-Forsyth athletics and the community as a whole.





ELSTON MITCHELL

Elston Mitchell is a member of the 1962 class and during that time was a multi-sport athlete. During his time at MFHS, he received ten total varsity letters – three each for football and basketball and four for baseball – received multiple awards and was voted captain of both the football team (1961) and basketball team (1962). Elston went on to play baseball and basketball at Eastern Illinois University, where he participated in the 1964 NAIA World Series and the Central Illinois Collegiate League. He spent four years in the US Navy as a Radar Technician, training pilots for Vietnam missions. While in the Navy, Elston was a member of the prestigious All-Navy softball (1967) and football teams (1968) and went on to be a member of the All-American Team in 1977, 1980, and 1983. Because of his many athletic achievements, Elston is a member of the USA Softball of Illinois (formerly ASA) Hall of Fame, the Bloomington/Normal Golf Association Hall of Fame, and the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame.





NELSON R. SMITH, JR.

Nelson R. Smith, Jr. was a member of the 1939 class. He was a four-year member of the camera club and photographer for the school newspaper and yearbook. Nelson attended Illinois State Normal University (now Illinois State University) and was hired by President Raymond Fairchild as the university's first student photographer as a freshman. He left college during his senior year to serve in WWII as a Sergeant, U.S. Army Air Corps photographer and returned post-war to complete a B.A. and M.A. Nelson founded the ISNU/ISU Photographic Services Department and served as director for 52 years before retiring in 1991. During his time at ISU, Nelson documented thousands of campus events and his work underpins ISU's historic photo slideshows and galleries. In 1996, ISU renamed a building in his honor; the Nelson Smith Building currently serves as a General Services building next to Redbird Arena. Nelson's family donated his photograph collection to the Maroa-Forsyth Archives from his years at Maroa-Forsyth High School. Because of Nelson, Maroa-Forsyth archives now has hundreds of photos from the school in mid-to-late 1930s. Though Nelson died in 1998, his legacy lives on, both at ISU and in the Maroa-Forsyth community.





TJ PAINTER

TJ Painter is a member of the 2004 class and a current board-certified general surgeon with a distinguished career serving patients in the US and abroad. TJ is recognized for academic excellence, leadership, and the creation of new roles to improve resident education, research, and simulation training. TJ has advanced global medical service through 12 years as a Major and General Surgeon in the US Air Force, through work with the UK NHS and underserved communities, and through his time as an Honorary Consultant at West Suffolk Hospital and Honorary Fellow at Cambridge University Hospital and Royal London Hospital. He was the sole general surgeon for a community of 10,000 in Japan, coordinating surgical care within the Japanese medical system. TJ also provided critical care during the 2016 Pulse nightclub tragedy in Orlando, FL, helping triage and treat over 40 gunshot victims. TJ currently resides in Maine and continues serving patients nationwide through temporary physician service assignments.





LEANN (SECHREST) SHEURING

Leann (Sechrest) Schuering is a member of the 2000 class. During her time at Maroa-Forsyth, Leann was a member of the All-State Honors Chorus and was chosen to sing the National Anthem for the Girls Class A State Basketball Tournament. She received a B.A. from the University of Chicago, M.M. from the University of Illinois, and D.M.A from the University of Michigan and has been regularly performing as a vocalist and stage actor since. Leann is an acclaimed soprano in the St. Louis area, with a voice described by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as "lovely and rich." In addition to her performances in St. Louis, Leann has been a guest artist with regional and national ensembles, including Toledo Symphony, Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, and Skylark Opera Theater in Minnesota. She has been recognized as a two-time St. Louis District winner in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, 2013 third place recipient at the International Czech and Slovak Singing Competition, and 2014 semi-finalist at the Hans Gabor Belvedere Opera Competition in Dusseldorf. Leann has over ten years of collegiate teaching experience at Millikin University, University of Michigan, and University of Illinois. She still performs regularly and is a current faculty member at Webster University.





2005-06 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Led by head coach Chad Cluver, the 2005-06 Maroa-Forsyth boys basketball team compiled a 31-3 overall record and concluded the season as Okaw Valley Conference champions. The Trojans were ranked among the top Class A teams in central Illinois throughout the regular season. The Trojans advanced through regional and sectional competition to earn a spot in the IHSA Class A State Finals. After a semifinal loss, the Trojans secured a third-place finish in Class A. At the time, the 2005-06 Trojans set a program high regular season record and had one of the highest postseason placements in the program's history.

Key contributors during the season included Austin Peebles, Reed Sullivan, Robert Kreps, Ben Cochran, and C.J. McClellan. The team's overall balance and depth were reflected in its consistent performance across conference and postseason play. The success of the 2005-06 season directly preceded and helped lay the groundwork for the program's state championship run in 2006-07.



2012 SOFTBALL TEAM

Coached by Phil Applebee, the 2012 Maroa-Forsyth softball team completed one of the top statistical seasons in program history. The Trojans posted a 25–1 overall record and advanced to the sectional final, reaching the Sweet 16 level of the IHSA postseason.

The team established a program-best winning percentage (.961) and set a school record for team earned run average at 0.79. Consistent pitching, steady defense, and balanced offensive production defined the season and contributed to Maroa-Forsyth's control of games throughout the spring.

Senior Breanna Livingood provided veteran leadership, while underclass contributors Gabbi Clifton, Tarynn Tirpak, Alex Berry, and Bailey Martin played significant roles in the team's success. Applebee was named Macon County Softball Coach of the Year in 2012.

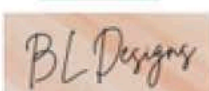
The 2012 season set statistical benchmarks for the program and marked a high point in Maroa-Forsyth softball's postseason advancement.



Know someone you would like to nominate?

The nominating committee would appreciate your help! Use the QR code below or visit www.mfschools.net/news/hall-of-fame. Nominations need to be submitted by July 31st.





THANK YOU!

Agave & Lime
 Angie Ingram
 B. Bruntjen Creations
 BL Designs
 Brass Horn
 Carpet Weavers
 Casey's General Store
 Chicago Bears Organization
 Chicago Bulls Organization
 Chicago White Sox Organization
 Colee's Corner Drug Store
 Comfort Keepers
 Cooper's Hawk
 Decatur Park District
 Del's Popcorn Shop
 Doolin Group with Brinkoetter Realtors
 ES Meats/ Lindsey & Curtis Wise
 Flora Gems
 Full House
 Glenda Williamson Realty
 Illinois State University
 JJ Swartz Co.
 Julie Scheuler Photography
 Kendra Scott
 Krekels
 Luka Popcorn
 Main Place Realtors
 McAlister's
 Papa Murphy's
 Perfect Pair
 Ray's Chili & Red Door Spice Co.
 Sacred Grief Co.
 Schae & Jill Kelm
 Sherry Parker
 St. Louis Cardinal Organization
 Starbucks
 Tap Root
 Tina & Steve Horve

We would like to thank Mike Hall Actions for sponsoring this event!



MF School Archives
Tina Horve, Archivist
Tina.Horve@mfschools.net

The School Archives promotes the collection, preservation, and digitization of historical items from the Maroa-Forsyth School District and its communities. The Archives holds school records dating back to the late 1800s, yearbooks and school newspapers, photos, videos, clothing items, and more, with the goal of increasing public access to these items through its website, social media, and in-person events. Alumni, former faculty, staff, and community members are welcome to contact the Archives for research or for donations of school-related materials.

Use the QR code below or visit www.MFSchoolArchives.com



Maroa-Forsyth Foundation



Started in 1996, the Foundation is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to enriching, enhancing, and supporting the Maroa-Forsyth School District. It provides funds to enhance classroom curriculum and aids teachers through the fulfillment of Teacher Classroom Grants.

Through the generous donations of alumni, parents, community members, and other supporters, the Foundation has provided over \$300,000 in classroom grants and over \$56,000 in scholarships to graduating MF seniors. Foundation classroom grants have purchased materials for Grade School, Middle School, and High School students across all programs, including music, reading, art, science, social studies, school assemblies, and the Wall of Valor display.

Please take a moment tonight to donate to the Foundation by check or credit card at the silent auction table. Your donation makes a huge difference in the lives of current MF students and the work their teachers can do in the classroom.

Thank You!