

NAFC
alumni



LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC ALUMNI



A Message from the NAFC Education Foundation *Sherri McKeen, Alumni Coordinator*

November always gives us a moment to pause and honor the NAFCS graduates who have served our country. This month, we are spotlighting two alumni whose military service shaped their lives in meaningful ways, and I hope you enjoy getting to know their stories.

We are also continuing to put donor support to work through our Great Classroom Grants. These grants help teachers bring new ideas to life and give students meaningful tools and experiences in the classroom. The projects happening across our schools show the kind of impact this support makes.

The Legacy NAFC Alumni Royal Court is also underway, and our eight candidates are rallying support for the programs that lift up our students and educators. Their enthusiasm speaks volumes about what this community means to them.

Thank you for being part of this community and for supporting the work that keeps our NAFC School community strong.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Beam, Guest Contributor

While the call to serve looks different for every veteran, their commitment to our nation is unwavering. During this month dedicated to honoring Veterans, our two featured alumni show how that spirit of service continues long after the tours are complete.

A month after the 9/11 attacks, **Kyle Samons (FCHS '99)** paused his college studies and dedicated the next four years to the U.S. Navy. His time on shore and at sea shaped a life of leadership that now includes serving as a state judge and coaching Floyd Central's football and baseball teams.

From an early age, **Dr. Al Knable (NAHS '84)** was captivated by the world of science. Seeking a way to fund medical school while also serving others, the Purdue graduate joined the US Air Force. Though no longer on active duty, he continues to support Veterans through monthly volunteer work at the local VA medical center.

We salute Kyle, Al, and all NAFCS alumni who have defended our nation and strengthened democracy across the globe. Thank you for your dedication and service!

Kyle Samons (FCHS '99) Finding his future as a Naval sonar tech



University of Louisville, Judge Kyle Samons started to rethink college. While he played football for the Cards, the 1999 Floyd Central grad wasn't always locked in to his studies.

That was September of 2001.

Weeks later, the world changed on 9-11-01—a day when terrorists attacked the American homeland in unprecedented horror.

By October, Kyle had enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

“It was the call to arms of our generation,” said Kyle. “I was just floating around listlessly in college. I could either scrape by and graduate with some degree I didn't even know what to do with, or I could serve. It was one of those moments to go serve.”

The Navy runs deep in Kyle's blood. His two older brothers served aboard nuclear submarines, and though he followed, his path took a different course. After completing his training, Kyle became a sonar technician on the USS Chafee, one of the first sailors assigned to the newly constructed destroyer. He joined its maiden deployment to the Arabian Gulf in 2005 in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Teamwork has always come naturally to the Georgetown, Indiana, native. At Floyd Central, he threw himself into a range of activities—from chorus to student council—but sports were where he thrived. A four-year athlete in both baseball and football, Kyle helped the Highlanders capture their first-ever sectional football title in 1998 as a running back.

Along the way, he formed lifelong friendships that continue to this day.

"We don't see each other, maybe, more than once a year. But when we get back together, it's just like it was," he said.

The same holds true for his Navy days. After completing his four-year enlistment in 2006, he has remained close with many of his shipmates.

The military invigorated Kyle in other ways beyond just friendships. It was during his final year as a Petty Officer that his future became clearer. The former history major decided to complete his undergraduate degree and then attend law school.

He and his wife, Rebekah, could have settled anywhere, but they chose to return to Kyle's roots and moved back to Indiana. In 2008, he earned his BA in History and Political Science from the University of Louisville. Three years later, he graduated from U of L's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law.

After becoming an attorney, Kyle joined Brizendine Law Office, where he explored a range of practice areas. From family law to probate and beyond, he discovered that what he enjoyed most was the blend of intellectual challenge and the chance to make a difference in people's lives.

"It's a way to help people," he said. "I know that sounds cliché, but it really is a chance to impact someone's life in a meaningful way. People come to you as a lawyer in times of need. It doesn't matter what area of law you're in; it's impactful."

In 2018, Kyle's reach grew beyond his local community when Governor Eric Holcomb appointed him as the District 6 Administrative Law Judge on the Indiana Worker's Compensation Board. The role gave him a new way to serve, this time on a statewide stage.

Still, his heart remains close to home. The former Floyd Central standout found his way back to his alma mater, trading in the courtroom for the fifty-yard line. For the past five years, he's helped lead the Highlanders football team as an assistant coach. And when spring rolls around, he's out on the baseball field, too, coaching FC's young players.

"It's very time-consuming, but so rewarding," the father of four said. "I love it. I hadn't been to a football game in 20 years, and it's been incredible getting back in. I really enjoy it."

Dr. Al Knable (NAHS '84)

Healing and helping in the United States Air Force



In the sacred hills of Peru's Urubamba Valley, doctors from the United States Air Force traveled village to village on a mission of healing, not hostilities. The people of these ancient lands had little access to medical care in the spring of 2000. For six weeks, the team treated 200-500 patients a day, delivering babies, setting broken bones, and treating infections.

Among the physicians was Dr. Al Knable.

Though he specialized in dermatology, Al's work in those mountains extended far beyond his field during that humanitarian mission, just as it does today.

As a doctor, columnist, county commissioner, husband, and father, Al continues to devote his life to helping others in medicine and beyond.

And it all started in New Albany, Indiana.

Al grew up surrounded by science. His father was a dentist. Early in his life, he spent time in his dad's office, cleaning various instruments and developing X-rays.

His interests expanded throughout his high school years at New Albany. He played on the soccer team and wrestled, but also led the German Club and competed on the High-Q team. After graduating from NAHS in 1984, Al headed to Purdue University to study pre-law. But halfway through his freshman year, he decided to change course.

"My tribe was science," Al said. "I missed my biology labs. I missed my chemistry labs. So, after that first semester, I switched, and I graduated with a BS in Biology."

Paying for college—let alone medical school—wasn't easy for Al. Between working and borrowing, he was already stretched thin. With money tight, he began exploring other ways to fund his next educational step.

During his junior year at Purdue, a campus flyer advertising the Health Professions Scholarship Program caught his eye. If he were one of the 10% of applicants selected, the Air Force would cover his medical school tuition and expenses in exchange for his serving eight years in the reserves and four years of active duty.

Once accepted into the program, Al completed Officer Candidate School before his first year at Indiana University Medical School. Throughout this time, he served in the Air Force Reserves as a Second Lieutenant. After graduating with his MD in 1992, he completed his dermatology residency at IU.

“I have people come up and say, ‘Thank you for your service’. I always say, ‘Thank you for paying for my medical school, ’ and I mean that in the most sincere manner possible,” Al said. “I would encourage anybody who is looking for an avenue to not only serve other people and your country, but also something that's going to minimize your post-high-school educational debt, to consider serving in the armed forces.”

When Al finished his residency, he and his wife, Jessica, packed up and moved to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. For the next four years, he cared for service members, veterans, and their families at the base’s dermatology clinic. Some had even fought in World War I.

“I’m very interested in people's lives, and I think that's what's kept me interested in medicine for so long,” Al said. “Everybody’s got a story to tell.”

But Al’s connection to the military didn’t end when he finished active duty. In addition to being a partner at his Kentuckiana dermatology practice, he has spent the past 20 years volunteering at the Louisville VA Medical Center’s dermatology clinic, giving back to local veterans.

“I’m fortunate enough that not only did I see parts of the world I never would’ve seen otherwise, but I also touched minds—and literally touched individuals—who served all over the world,” Al said. “The lesson in that is that history isn’t some distant thing sitting on a shelf or in a book. It’s out there. It’s palpable. You can actually access it. You just have to leave your hometown every once in a while to do that.”



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Stay updated on your Floyd County classmates, discover thrilling events in your NAFC school community, and learn firsthand about the NAFC Education Foundation by connecting with us at facebook.com/LegacyNAFCAlumni.



Amanda Braden (NAHS 1994), Braydon Hobbs (NAHS 2008), Tony Toran (NAHS 1987), Karen McKinley-Boyd (NAHS 1975), Katie Sutter (FCHS 2004), Matt Uhl (FCHS 1997), Julia Hott (FCHS 2006), Paula Merrill (FCHS 1989)

NAFC Alumni Step Up Again to Support Teachers and Students

These eight outstanding NAFCS graduates are stepping up for our students and teachers. Their efforts support the programs that help our schools thrive, and your gift makes that possible. When you give to the NAFC Education Foundation, you help ensure:

- Teachers receive \$500 each year to bring creative Great Classroom Grant ideas to life
- New educators can purchase the classroom resources they need to start strong
- Children have food during school breaks through Blessings in a Backpack
- Students and staff have access to mental health supports when they need it most
- Floyd County children are ready for kindergarten and receive monthly books from birth to age five through our Imagination Library
- And so much more that goes beyond the regular school budget

Please consider supporting one of this year's Royal Court Candidates to fuel initiatives that help create a brighter future for every student in our NAFCS community.

You can give online at the

[Legacy NAFC Alumni Royal Court Site](#)

Or mail your contribution using the [NAFC Royal Court Donation Form](#).

We also hope you'll join us on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Floyd Central High School, where the top fundraiser will be crowned before the New Albany vs. Floyd Central boys varsity basketball game.



This month, the NAFC Education Foundation approved \$26,125 in Great Classroom Grants to support hands-on learning, creativity, and student engagement across New Albany Floyd County Schools. These grants will help educators bring lessons to life through immersive learning spaces, new instructional tools, and student-centered resources that strengthen both academic and social-emotional growth.

Here are a few of this month's highlights:

- **Highland Hills Middle School** – fifth-grade classrooms will undergo Immersive Classroom Transformations, turning ordinary lessons into themed learning experiences like colonial reenactments, space exploration, and interactive writing environments.
- **Slate Run and Green Valley Elementary Schools** – students receiving speech and language services will benefit from expanded therapy materials to support communication skill development.
- **Floyd Central High School** – orchestra students will have upgraded cello bows to improve tone quality and performance readiness.
- **Prosser Career Education Center** – culinary students will continue building real-world kitchen skills through upgraded cookware and hands-on lab materials.
- **New Albany High School** – students will participate in the Bulldog Book Buddies Program, a student-led literacy initiative that connects high school mentors with younger readers to strengthen confidence, fluency, and a love of learning.
- **Hazelwood Middle School** – students will use new Macbeth novels and supporting classroom resources to deepen their study of Shakespeare through performance-based learning.

These and other projects represent the creativity and commitment of NAFC educators who go above and beyond to design meaningful learning experiences for their students. Each grant awarded this month was made possible thanks to generous donors who believe in investing directly in our classrooms.



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

For more information, contact Sherri McKeen at smckeen@nafcs.org or 812-542-2242 at the NAFC Education Foundation.

www.NAFCEdFoundation.org/alumni



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