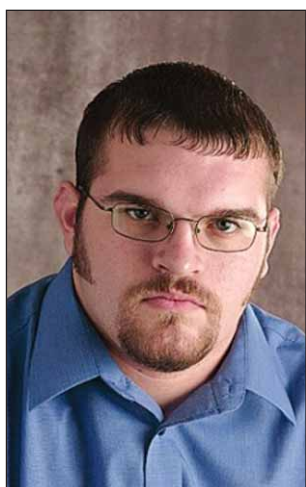


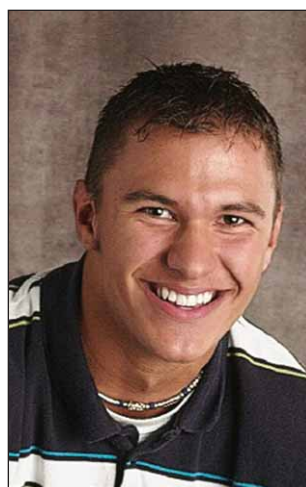
Austin Wolf



Nicholas Vehmeier



Louis Borton



Zachary Johnson



Jediah Hall



Madelyn Green

# Checking in with 2007 scholarship winners

## Rex Riley soup and pie dinner set for Feb. 8

Six Rex Riley/Morenci Kiwanis Scholarships were given out in 2007. Following is a 10-year update on the lives of those graduates who received the scholarship.

This year's Rex Riley Soup and Pie Supper fund raiser for scholarships is scheduled Feb. 8 at the Morenci Eagles.

### Austin Wolf

Austin Wolf attended Defiance College and Adrian College with hopes of playing college basketball, but he was also in college for business courses.

After he earned an associate's degree, he knew where he was headed.

"I immediately invested my time in livestock and specifically the cattle market," Austin said. "I received a job offer at Donor Solutions in 2013 where I was the herdsman at a bovine reproduction management facility."

He purchased the business in 2015 and is now the sole business owner. His facility houses female cow donors and collects eggs from the donors.

Austin married Naomi (Hoffman) and the couple has a daughter, Kree.

"I have been blessed by receiving the scholarship and publicly thank all who invested in me to reach my goals and desires," Austin said, "and help me achieve what I have to this day."

The Wolfs live in Rensselaer, Ind.

### Nick Vehmeier

Nick took his Rex Riley Scholarship and used it to attend Baker College in Owosso.

"I graduated with an associate's in computer networking, and a bachelor's in information technology and security.

During his final year of college, Nick started working at Uckele Health and Nutrition near Blissfield, and that's where he's remained.

Initially he was a production worker for the firm that makes nutritional packages and supplements for humans and dogs. Since then he's tried out other positions.

Nick moved to an information technology position, using his degree, and also did some troubleshooting in the production area due to his knowledge of the equipment used.

Then he made an important realization.

"I would much rather work with my hands and be involved with the machines, troubleshooting problems or fabricating parts for them when needed," he said. "I was then offered a machine technician position within the company and I am still working in the job."

Nick is now responsible for training new employees on how to properly use the equipment, troubleshoot setup issues, fix or replace broken parts, and help develop better production processes as the company grows.

"I also branch out and help with the product development side of things and how to make products run more efficiently on a given piece of equipment," Nick said. "It is quite the enjoyable position with a broad range of responsibilities with different tasks each day so things are not repetitive."

Nick isn't married, but he recently acquired a Siberian husky named Aurora that's taking up a lot of his free time.

"As a hobby, I have started getting into 3D printing. It is very enjoyable to make something appear out of nothing."

The 3D printing hobby is leading him to be more involved with CNC machine production. He expects that to improve his skill set as a technician in the future.

### Louis Borton

Many people remember Louis Borton hitting three-point shots for Morenci. Now he's on the sidelines helping coach the varsity squad.

Louis first attended Saginaw Valley State University with the goal of earning a business degree. He also took classes through Jackson Community College and Grand Rapids Community College.

He spent a couple of years working at an insurance company in San Antonio, Texas, where he has family, but in 2014 he returned to Morenci and began working with his father in construction and maintenance through Maid For You. He has also worked with Cedric Kutzley on roofing projects.

Through the years after high school, Louis has concluded that he doesn't belong in the classroom. Instead, he enjoys working with his hands and he may pursue a contractor's license.

This is the second year that he has helped coach Jim Bauer.

### Zac Johnson

Zac has done a lot of studying in the decade since he graduated from Morenci, and his learning isn't over yet.

He finished his undergraduate work at the University of Michigan in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in sociology, plus experience as a varsity football player. The team traveled to the Sugar Bowl in 2012.

Zac next earned a master's degree in sport management and his work experience includes internships with Merrill Lynch in the Wealth Management area and with the Altarum Institute consulting on government funded projects. He also engaged in a two-year, full-time assignment in sales and marketing for Fox Sports Detroit.

"Currently, I am pursuing an MBA at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business and I will be graduating in June 2017," Zac said.

While in business school he had the opportunity to work for Danaher Corporation in their general management program last summer and he recently accepted a full-time management position with Republic Systems and will move to Chicago in June.

Zac plays on the University of Michigan Ross soccer traveling team, taking trips to California and Texas to play other top business schools.

"I have been able to travel out West to some amazing places like Yellowstone

National Park, which is becoming an annual event," Zac said. "In addition, I am planning to travel to Israel this year to enrich my Christian faith."

He's also picked up the hobby of wakeboarding on Lake Michigan.

"My personal life is filled with some amazing friends, mentors and experiences," Zac said, "and I look forward to beginning a new chapter of learning and hopefully some teaching when I move to Chicago this summer."

### Jed Hall

Jed is the new Mr. Hall at Morenci schools in his role as the dean of students.

He used his scholarship to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration from Adrian College. He also played basketball there for two years.

He worked at Five Points Painting, his father's business, after college and still helps out occasionally.

Jed served as a paraprofessional at Morenci Elementary School and started the dean of students job at the beginning of the current school year.

He intends to return to school to become certified in educational leadership—a step required to serve as a school principal.

Jed served as Morenci's junior varsity basketball coach for four years and currently serves as an assistant varsity coach.

He married Kristin Sanderson in 2015 and they're expecting a child in August.

### Maddie Green

Maddie has spent a lot of time away from Morenci and that's continuing now.

She attended the University of Michigan and earned a degree in environmental stud-

ies through Program in the Environment. During college she studied in southeast Asia and enrolled in a geology course at U of M's geological station in Wyoming.

After graduation, she worked for a summer at the Wyoming station and made a tour of the West Coast from Vancouver to Joshua Tree, Calif.

She traveled through New Zealand, working on a farm and in an organic yogurt factory, then sailed to Australia and served as a crew member during the Whit Sunday's Island boat race.

She returned to America and lived in Chicago for seven months, starting work with a company that folded shortly after her arrival and eventually served as a dog walker. She followed this up with a research assistant job at U of M.

Maddie served as an apprentice at Love Apple Farms in California for three months, then helped set up and operate an organic farm that serves the three-star Michelin rated Saison restaurant in San Francisco.

She began working at Heart of the City Farmer's Market in downtown San Francisco and was soon serving as the assistant manager. The market manages the largest electronic benefit transfer (EBT) program in California and possibly the largest in the nation in an effort to help low-income people purchase fresh, healthy food.

While in California she fulfilled a lifelong dream of learning to surf.

Maddie is currently traveling in South America with a friend and expects to return to grad school in the future for environmental issues, public health or food justice—making healthy food available to all people.

## The State Line Observer's Annual *Parents' Pride*

**Deadline: Feb. 22**

CHILD'S NAME AGE

CHILD'S HOME TOWN

PARENTS' NAMES

GRANDPARENTS' NAMES

Send a photo of your pride & joy via e-mail to [editor@statelineobserver.com](mailto:editor@statelineobserver.com) or drop off or mail to 120 North St., Morenci • It's just \$10 per photo! You can pay online at [statelineobserver.com](http://statelineobserver.com)