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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS April 2024



Sophomore Lila Burns won the Chesterman Coca-Cola Cinco de Mayo art competition! Click above to watch the video or read the full story below.



Dear Supporter,

At the Foundation office, we are hoping that April showers bring May flowers and warmer weather!

I want to thank everyone who supported Central High School this past month at our Rock the Nest Trivia Night! We had 26 teams and over 250 Eagles participate in this annual event. This year, we played trivia at the Paxton Ballroom and hosted teams that included alumni, parents, teachers, and current students. Eagle Nation made this event a great success, and your

generosity will go to supporting the next generation of Central Eagles. Thank you!

It may be difficult to believe, but this school year is almost over! Administrative Professionals' Day is on Wednesday, April 26, and our office is gearing up to hold our annual support staff luncheon as a way to thank Central's support staff for their hard work. Coinciding with the end of the school year is the Senior Recognition Ceremony. This year's ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 14, in the Central auditorium. I hope you join us as we award more than 70 scholarships to seniors in the class of 2024. It is bittersweet seeing our Eagles leave the Nest and pursue their dreams in the world after graduation.

Lastly, this weekend is the 110th Road Show! I can't wait to see what creative and talented performances our Eagles share on Friday and Saturday. To the performers, "Break a leg!"

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate more than 165 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,



Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

2024 Hall of Fame Class Announced



PICTURED: 2023 Central High School Hall of Fame Inductees

It is our pleasure to announce the incoming Class of 2024 of the Central High School Hall of Fame! These inductees have exemplified the Eagle spirit of excellence in their respective communities, in their professional endeavors, and in their ceaseless efforts to give back to others. The 2024 Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at Central High School.

- [Matthew Aden, CHS 1974](#)
- [Robert X. Fogarty, CHS 2001](#)
- [Kristie Hayes, CHS 1973](#)
- [Keith Kretschmer, Last Attended 1951](#)
- [David Napoliello, CHS 1964](#)
- [Jed Ortmeyer, CHS 1997](#)
- [Harold Pharoah, CHS 1966](#)
- [Richard Steele, CHS 1961](#)
- [Judy Storm, Distinguished Educator](#)
- [Patrick Venditte, CHS 2004](#)

Keep an eye out for their forthcoming biographies and photos! Congratulations to all who were inducted! Is there someone you would like to see in the Central High School Hall of Fame? Remember for them to be considered by the Central High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee, they have to be nominated! Nominations are considered by the committee for three years and may be renewed.

[Nominate Someone for the CHS Hall of Fame](#)

Eagle Lila Burns Wins Cinco de Mayo Art Competition



Our Adopt-A-School partner, Chesterman Coca-Cola, held an art contest this spring to design a truck trailer in honor of Cinco de Mayo. More than 150 Central students submitted an entry, and last week Chesterman surprised winner Lila Burns, CHS 2026, as the contest winner! Lila received an Apple MacBook Pro and Coca-Cola prize pack for her creative, hand-drawn design.

Once the design has been installed on the truck trailer, Chesterman will drive the truck trailer in the Cinco de Mayo Omaha parade. Congratulations to the top five entries for their outstanding creativity!

- First Place: Lila Burns
- Second Place: Rosemary Conway
- Third Place: Makenna Fidler
- Fourth Place: Georgie Denney
- Fifth Place: Sophi Luethge



Eagles Rocked the Nest at the Paxton Ballroom



PICTURED: Team "C U at the Ranch Bowl" placed 4th

More than 250 alumni, students, teachers, and parents rocked the nest at the 14th annual Rock the Nest Trivia Night earlier this month. On a new night and at a new venue, Rock the Nest raised over \$35,000 for Central High School. For the first time ever, a student team won the competition! Congratulations to our trivia team winners:



FIRST PLACE: 25%
CHARLIE Jaden Cheloha, Evan DeMaria, Chance Gaillard, Charles Gaillard, Valur Jaksha, Sam Morris, Brayden Simpson, Charlie Yale



SECOND PLACE:
QUIZTOPHER WALKEN
 Dylan Gaillard, Jordan Gaillard, Lindsay Gaillard, Matt Holst, Jackson Jensen, Rachel Mulder, Liz Noser, Quentin Noser



THIRD PLACE: 1859ers
 Brooks Humphreys, Chris Paintin, Meghan Paintin, James Reed, Victoria Deniston-Reed, Jennifer Stastny, Beth Wilson, Scott Wilson

A special thank you to our emcee, Mike'l Severe, and all of our supporters who attended the event, made a donation, or purchased a silent auction item. Rock the Nest will return in spring 2025, so stay tuned for more details!



Your Impact: CHS Singers Impress Music Professionals



Support from the Central High School Foundation ensures that any vocal music student can participate in local, regional, and national honor choirs and related events regardless of their family's ability to cover the costs associated with the event. Some students had never been away from home or from their parents before or had never shared a hotel room with their peers. These experiences are invaluable for students getting ready to "fly the nest" and enter adulthood.

These musical performances are incredibly valuable for students. The high-level repertoire these students performed for an audience of music teachers and professors required hours of practice and preparation. The Foundation has ensured that all students have access to these opportunities by subsidizing trip costs such as registration fees, transportation and lodging which can be substantial - especially when the event is not local. Students return to Central with new skills and confidence that prepare them to tackle challenges outside the classroom.

"The trip to Minnesota offered me a new view on how music can bring people together. Being surrounded by other musicians was not only inspiring, but also educational. From being in class perfecting our technique to working with amazing choirs and performing in preparation for the convention, this experience taught me that no matter where you are in the world music is everywhere."

- Emma Moran, Class of 2024

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our students at Central High School, including vocal and instrumental music students. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation "C" today!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

March Madness Bracket Winners Announced



It was another successful year of March Madness, with over 200 Eagles participating in our annual bracket challenge. Congratulations to Dave Foster ('83) for winning the Women's Bracket Challenge and Matthew Truesdell ('94) for winning the Men's Bracket Challenge. This was our first year with a Women's Bracket Challenge, and we look forward to growing it even more next year. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to those who participated!

Women's Bracket Challenge:

1st Place: Dave Foster ('83) 167 Points (Won Tie-Breaker)

2nd Place: Braeden Anderson ('24) 167 Points

3rd Place: Erica Corwin ('93) 166 Points

Men's Bracket Challenge:

1st Place: Matthew Truesdell ('94) 150 Points

2nd Place: Uri Colbert ('01) 143 Points

3rd Place: Matthew Ireland ('77) 140 Points

Alumni Spotlight: Georgia Chambers, CHS 2017



After graduating from Central High School in 2017, Georgia attended the University of Georgia where she majored in journalism and graduated magna cum laude. The day after graduation, she received a call offering her a position as a weekend sports anchor for WAFF 48 in Huntsville, Alabama.

Georgia started her early career covering Alabama and Auburn athletics as well as high school sports in North Alabama. She also covered the Huntsville Havoc and the Trash Pandas (Yes, that really is the MiLB club's name). She was able to cover her alma mater, Georgia, beat Alabama in the national championship in 2022, cover the Tide's Sweet 16 run during March Madness, and host and produce her own digital show called, *Game On with Georgia Chambers*.

After two years in this position, Georgia decided to move back to the peach state and take a seasonal position with Fox 5 Atlanta covering her first NFL season in a top-ten market. She helped produce three weekly Falcons programming shows, covered home and away games, and appeared on air for sports newscasts. Georgia is still in Atlanta as a freelance sports reporter covering all Atlanta professional sports. She is excited to see where her career takes her next.

"Who would have thought that I, Georgia from Nebraska, who got my start working for *The Register* in Room 029, would be covering sports in Atlanta?!"

We love seeing our Eagles soar! Keep up the great work, Georgia!



Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight

Eagles Return to Nest for "Sunrise in the Stacks"



Eagles returned to the Nest last month for "Sunrise in the Stacks." This free event sponsored by the Central High School Alumni Association benefited the Central High School Nest program, which provides needy students with personal care items.

Held in the Arts and Library Addition, this event provided a beautiful sunrise backdrop while teacher Molly Davies spoke about Central's ELL

(English Language Learner) population. Social worker, Dawnna Hill, also spoke to the attendees about student needs.

[Learn About the Alumni Association](#)

Show Your Eagle Pride With A Yard Sign



Show off your Central Eagle pride with a yard sign! With six different design options to choose from, these signs can be placed in a yard, window, or wherever you want to show your support for Omaha's oldest high school!

These signs are not available to purchase online; signs are available to purchase in the Central school store (inside the courtyard) weekdays from 7:15 - 7:35 am and 11:15 am - 1:30 pm. The cost is \$30 per sign.

[Learn More About Purchasing a Yard Sign](#)

Join the 1859 Society Today



Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents, and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or michele@chsfomaha.org.

[Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

Upcoming Class Reunion Schedule



The Class of 1992 at their class reunion in 2022!

Upcoming Reunion Schedule

[Class of 1959](#)

April 26-27, 2024

[Terry Foster](#) 402-871-7275

[Dave Krecek](#) 402-677-3607

[Larry Gilinsky](#) 402-598-7006

[Join the 1959 Facebook Group](#)

[Class of 1964](#)

September 20-21, 2024

[Contact Jeannene Rice Mason](#) 402-301-9234

[Jeannette Rice Johnson](#) 402-699-0820

Class of 1970

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

[Class of 1974](#)

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact information for each day:

[Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#) 402-677-1227 Friday and Monday activities

[Cindy Goff](#) 402-510-6537 Saturday activities

[Sara Achelpohl](#) 402-707-9190 Sunday activities

[Kevin Buckner](#) 240-432-7268

[Class of 1979](#)

November 9, 2024

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

[Class of 1984](#)

September 6-7, 2024

Contact [Beretta Smith-Shomade](#) or [Betty Brown-Broughton](#)

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

[Class of 1989](#)

September 13-14, 2024

[Class of 1994](#)

October 18-20, 2024

centralhigh1994@gmail.com

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

[Class of 2004](#)

September 6-7, 2024

Contact Ally Thomson, Steve Hogan, Daniel Gutman

[Class of 2014](#)

October 4-5, 2024

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date, please [contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.

2023-24 Generation "C" Chair - Leslie Gotch

The Central High School Foundation is proud to announce Leslie Gotch, CHS 1964 as the 2023-2024 Generation "C" Chair.



With 27 years of consecutive giving, Leslie Gotch has never wavered in his support of Central High School.

Born in San Diego to two WWII Navy veterans, Leslie, the eldest of five children and his family moved to

Omaha in 1952. He attended Pickard, Belle Ryan, and Jackson Elementary Schools. "I could not wait to get to Central High School in 1960. My grandmother had just retired as the pastry cook in the cafeteria, so when I went through the lines, the ladies would sometimes put a brownie or piece of cake on my tray and not charge me the 7 cents!"

Leslie has fond memories of his time at CHS. "I loved being a student at Central - the opportunity to be able to study several courses with different teachers was exciting. My teachers taught me to be a critical thinker which was integral in my future career as a computer security engineer."

His talents were in high demand by not only the private sector, but also the U.S. military. "My company produced a specialty product that would scan every email and file passing through the network. This product was incorporated into the military's new messaging systems used on bases from Qatar to Pearl Harbor. Eventually my customers included NATO, The Department of State, and other intelligence agencies."

While at Central, Leslie participated in activities outside the classroom. "I was very involved in the JROTC program. I was on the crack squad rifle drill team for two years and the Hussars my senior year. The Hussars were a precision drill team that performed at the Aksarben coronations."

Now enjoying his retirement, Leslie continues to value the importance of education and giving back to his community - core values he learned, in part, during his time at Central High School - he volunteers at the information desk at a local library and went back to school to study five international languages.

[Join Generation "C"](#)

[Support CHSF While You Shop](#)

The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation.

It's easy to do! Just go to the link [tagg.today](#), snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

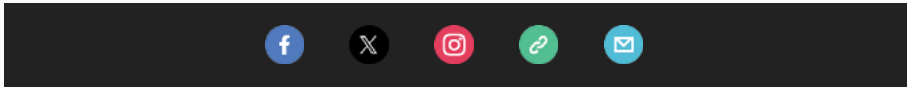


Stay Connected With Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X](#)? Follow and like us across social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news.

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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