



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS November 2023



Former DECA students and teachers attended the Passing Periods Alumni Luncheon on October 20 featuring guest speaker Harry Gaylor.



Dear Supporter,

Happy November! Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

In case you missed it, I want to recognize the outstanding work of the Alumni Association Veterans Committee for their restoration of Central's Vietnam Memorial. Central is home to the second oldest JROTC program in the nation, and I am proud to see the support from our alumni for projects such as this which help honor those who gave their lives for our freedoms.

Our Eagles have had a busy but successful first quarter of the school year. The Eagle Broadcasting team had the opportunity to televise the NSAA state volleyball tournament in Lincoln for the first time. This was a great learning experience made possible by the help of our incredible supporters and alumni.

Congratulations to Casey Bigsby Denton ('05) for being inducted into the Omaha Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame! Casey was a three-sport star for Central, highlighted by multiple All-State honors in soccer and cross country. Casey has returned to Central as a teacher, leading the Eagles' Academic Coaching program for student-athletes and was named the Central Teacher of the Year in 2022.

Finally, 2023 class reunions have wrapped up! If your reunion is scheduled for next year, the most up-to-date information can be found at the bottom of our newsletter. Also, [make sure to update your record](#) so that your physical

invitation and event communications will be mailed to the correct address. This is especially for recent graduates; we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 164 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,



Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

Harry Gaylor Speaks at Passing Periods Luncheon



Harry Gaylor, inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame in 2022, spoke with emcee Alec Rome ('18) at last month's Passing Periods Alumni Luncheon at the Field Club of Omaha. More than 120 alumni, former staff members, and former students of Mr. Gaylor attended this edition of Passing Periods to conclude the 2023 Hall of Fame week. Mr. Gaylor spent a remarkable 51 years as a classroom educator in OPS, highlighted by 36 years teaching at Central and leading the school's award-winning DECA program.

Keep an eye on our website for upcoming events in our Passing Periods series where you can access audio from this event and past luncheons.

[Learn About Passing Periods](#)

Hall of Fame Inductees Speak with Students



Following the Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony, inductees had the opportunity to speak to current Central students on Friday morning. Thank you to these host classrooms for welcoming the inductees back to their alma mater:

- Sue Breeding ('74) - Newspaper and Journalism (Brody Hilgenkamp)
- Hub Brown ('76) - Newspaper and Journalism (Brody Hilgenkamp)
- Edward Fogarty ('89) - Medical Terminology (John Morley)
- Bruce Hoberman ('65) - Entrepreneurship (Kyle Schroeder)
- Richard Kaslow ('61) - Honors Chemistry (Sharon Elliott)
- Rachel Tomlinson Mindrup ('92) - Art Foundations (Tanya Simmons)
- Rod Mullen (Educator) - AP World History (McKenna Paintin '16)
- Richard Zacharia ('61) - Data and Statistics (Brent Larson)

Do you know someone worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame? Nominations for the Class of 2024 are now open through December 31! Anyone can submit a nomination, and nominations are valid for three years of consideration. [Click here to submit a nomination online](#). Congratulations again to the Class of 2023!

[Submit a Nomination](#)



Cadet Receives Legion of Valor Bronze Cross



Central has a longstanding tradition of excellence with its JROTC program, and this year is no exception. Central has more than 160 cadets, making it the largest JROTC program in Nebraska.

Senior Lt. Colonel Alex Krasnoslobodtsev was recently awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement. Alex is one of only 25 students in the nation recognized for this award, which recognizes academic excellence, leadership potential, and service. In addition to his work with the Eagle Battalion, Alex plays golf, is a member of the Jazz Band and orchestra, and works as a karate instructor outside of school.

Alex wants to serve and has already applied to the Air Force and Naval Academies. Congratulations, Alex!

Your support helps provide funding for classrooms and activities at Central, including JROTC. Join Generation "C" to support Eagles such as Alex.

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

New Eagle Tales Podcast Episode



Just in time for Thanksgiving, a new Eagle Tales podcast episode has been published! 2023 Hall of Fame inductee Rachel Tomlinson Mindrup ('92) joins the podcast for Episode 15.

Eagle Tales is a podcast during which our creative director, Josh Bucy, sits down with a Central High School alum to talk about their time at Central and how it has impacted them. Listeners hear all about the amazing things that alumni are doing to change the world! You can find this podcast on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or the [Central High School Foundation website](#).

[Listen to Episode 15](#)

Class of '68 Gathers for Reunion



The class of 1968 held their 55-year reunion earlier this fall. On Friday evening, classmates gathered at Legends Grill & Bar for a casual evening to catch up. On Saturday morning, Eagles toured the school and walked through the new Arts and Library Addition. Saturday night they danced the night away at the Field Club of Omaha and honored their lost classmates. It was a weekend to remember!

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Evelyn Mayberger, CHS 2005



Eve Mayberger graduated from Central High School in 2005. She completed her undergraduate studies at Wesleyan University and her graduate degrees at

New York University where she specialized in objects conservation. Eve is currently an assistant conservator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston where she focuses on the materiality and conservation of three-dimensional artworks. Some of her recent projects include working with the [Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture in a New Light](#) exhibition, Nubia traveling tour, and laser cleaning a large 6th-century Chinese sandstone stele. In addition to museum work, she has participated in excavations in Sardis (Turkey), Selinunte (Sicily), Abydos (Egypt), and el Kurru (Sudan). Eve would like to thank the amazing Central High School teachers who fostered her love of history, cultural heritage, and material science.

Keep up the amazing work, Eve!

Pictured Above: *Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculptures in a New Light at the MFA*

Pictured Below: *Conservation of the tomb of King Tamwetamni in el-Kurru, Sudan*

Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight



Eagle Recognized as Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist



The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation recently announced that Central senior Alivia Rodriguez is a semifinalist for the Coca-Cola Scholar program. Alivia is one of 1,514 students selected from over 103,800 applicants from across the United States. Selection is based on academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. At the conclusion of the selection process, 150 students will be named Coca-Cola Scholars and receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Congratulations, Alivia!

Eagle Connections for Memorial Stadium's 100th Anniversary



This fall marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Memorial Stadium at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Home of the Cornhuskers, this football stadium has several unique ties to Omaha Central.

You may recognize the last name Latenser; John Latenser Sr. was the architect who designed Central High School in the early 20th century. John Sr. would later work with his son John Latenser Jr. (1906) to design Memorial Stadium. Memorial Stadium was built by brothers Earl and Kenneth Hawkins. A few decades later, Kenneth would join his

son (and future CHS Hall of Fame inductee) Fred H. Hawkins Sr. ('45) to form Hawkins Construction Company.

In the game against the University of Oklahoma Sooners, Central alum David Noble ('19) scored the first touchdown in Memorial Stadium history. Noble's four-yard run in the third quarter gave the Cornhuskers their 10-0 advantage.

The Cornhuskers went on to win the inaugural game at Memorial Stadium 24-0 over the Sooners on October 13, 1923.

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

Class of '58 Reunites at Reunion



Eagles from near and far returned to the Nest for the class of 1958 reunion this fall. While there were many smaller gatherings that happened during the weekend, the main reunion festivities were a school tour on Saturday morning and a dinner and social hour at Champions Run Golf Club on Saturday night. Classmates had fun sharing happy moments and making new

memories together during the reunion weekend.

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

Your Impact: International Baccalaureate Programme



Earlier this fall, students in the International Baccalaureate Programme took on the TreeRush Adventures at Fontelle Forest in Bellevue. This leadership and teambuilding activity was made possible thanks to a grant from the Central High School Foundation.

The IB Diploma Programme is open to any student willing to take on the challenge. Since students come from all sorts of "friend groups" and different academic courses, this JumpStart program encourages the bonding of students into an IB group that supports one another. Including both the Diploma Programme candidates and the younger students in activities like

JumpStart help create the connections between upperclassmen and younger students that make the mentor/mentee relationship strong.

"Participating in JumpStart brings me closer to my peers, the ones I've spent the past year with and the ones that I am meeting for the first time as they are starting the IB program. We get to laugh together, coach each other through obstacles, and get to know each other as people rather than just as students." - Amy Fischer, Class of 2024

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

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

Class of '73 Holds 50-Year Reunion



Eagles from the Class of 1973 reunited for their 50-year reunion in October. Friday evening featured a cocktail party and reception at the Field Club. On Saturday morning, classmates went on a wonderful tour of Central led by current National Honor Society students. The reunion weekend concluded on Saturday evening with a dinner and dance at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center downtown. More than 150 classmates attended the reunion, making it a fun weekend with many laughs while reminiscing of old times and making new memories together.

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

[Join the 1859 Society Today](#)



What is Your Legacy?

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](#)

Fall Decluttering? Consider the Alumni Association



AP Language and Composition students visited the CHS archives in October to hear Jeannette Rice Johnson ('64) and her sister Jeannene Rice Mason ('64) talk about the legacy of Sara Vore Taylor and their experience preserving Central history. Many artifacts about Sara Vore Taylor have been donated to the CHS archives, including photographs, manuscripts, and even an original copy of the *Style Book*.

If you have an item or piece of Central memorabilia that you come across while

cleaning this fall and would like to donate it to the Alumni Association, please click on the button below so that a volunteer can follow up on your request.

[Click Here to Contact the Alumni Association](#)

2023 Class Reunion Schedule



The Class of '92 at their class reunion in 2022!

Upcoming Reunion Schedule

Class of 1964

September 20-21, 2024

[Contact Jeannene Rice Mason](#) or [Jeannette Rice Johnson](#)

Class of 1970

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

Class of 1974

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact [Shellie McCall-Vodicka](#)

Class of 1984

Date TBD

Contact [Todd Smith](#) or [Betty Brown](#)

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.



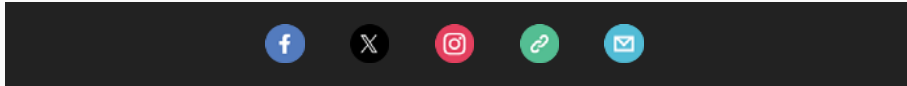
It's easy to do! Just go to the link tagg.today, snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

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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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