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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS September 2023



Watch the video above to meet our 2023-24 Generation "C" Chair: Leslie Gotch, CHS 1964



Dear Supporter,

Fall is here! Central recently opened its doors to the Class of 2027, and we want to welcome them to the Eagle Family!

The Central High School Foundation has many great events coming up, including our [Passing Periods: Alumni Luncheon Series](#) and the [2023 Hall of Fame](#)! Register today to join us! More information can be found in this newsletter below.

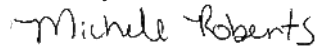
Keep your eyes open for our 2023 Annual Report! Every graduate and supporter will receive one in the mail over the next couple of weeks. This year's annual report details what was accomplished during the 2022-23 fiscal year. I want to thank our Creative Director and Database Administrator, Josh Bucy, for creating the Annual Report. A reminder that if you haven't received our mailings recently, we encourage you to [update your record](#) to ensure that we have your current contact information.

Finally, 2023 [class reunions](#) are underway! If you have a reunion this year, scroll to the end of this email for the most up-to-date information. Also, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your physical invitation and event communications are mailed to the correct address. This is especially important for recent graduates; we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 165 years - and counting - of

tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,



Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

Announcing The 2023-2024 Generation "C" Chair



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" Today](#)

The Return of Passing Periods Luncheon Series



Eagles all across Omaha are brushing shoulders for a quick hello during the Central High School Foundation's Passing Periods: Alumni Luncheon Series, and we hope to bump into you there! For \$20, you can enjoy a great meal, catch up with friends you haven't seen since first period, talk with teachers who you haven't seen since homeroom, and listen to our exclusive lineup of guest speakers.

Friday, October 20, 2023

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Field Club of Omaha

3615 Woolworth Avenue

Omaha, NE 68105

Guest Speaker:

Harry Gaylor, Staff 1984 to 2020

Harry 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. He is a Central High School Hall of Fame inductee.

To register online, please register and pay using the online registration button below. You will receive a confirmation email upon completion of your online registration and payment.

To register by mail, please mail your registration and check to:

Central High School Foundation

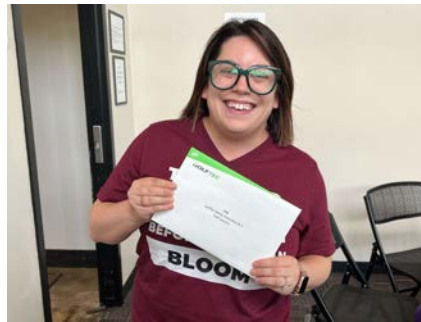
1111 N 13th Street Suite 318

Omaha, NE 68102-4252

If you have any questions, please contact Erika Buffington at 402-556-1996 or events@chsfomaha.org.

[Register to Attend Passing Periods](#)

Back-to-School Teacher Luncheon a Success



Central faculty and staff were welcomed back to the Nest at the annual Back-to-School luncheon in August at the Foundation office. Central faculty and staff began their week with a fun scavenger hunt around the Central attendance area. The scavenger hunt provided the new staff members an opportunity to get to know their new colleagues and featured history, architecture, art, and students.

The luncheon, held a week before class started, was an opportunity to welcome the returning faculty as the new staff members! This annual event includes lunch, raffle prizes, and a thank-you bag filled with classroom items that will be helpful during the school year.

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

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

[New Gear in the Alumni Store](#)



Have you checked out the new gear in the [Alumni Store](#)? It is stocked with new gear and fresh designs, plus you can get your own Central Stylebook, Peggy Karr Ornament, or a copy of the original Central High watercolor. Your purchases support the Central High School Alumni Association.

[Check Out the Alumni Store](#)

Snapshots: Welcome Class of 2027!



Central High School officially welcomed the Class of 2027 with the first day of class for freshman on August 16. They had a great first day at the Nest, with tours of the school led by upperclassmen. In addition to receiving their first Central-themed apparel item with a free t-shirt, freshman concluded their first day as Eagles with a freshman pep rally in the gym!

Welcome, Class of 2027!

[Honor an Eagle with a Tribute Gift](#)

Keep Up With Eagle Nation Anytime

Do you enjoy listening to podcasts? Do you like to learn new information about Central High School? There are two fascinating podcasts about the faculty, staff, and students (current and former) of our favorite high school!



Eagle Tales is a monthly podcast in 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 get to 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](#).

Radio Host and Disc Jockey Jason Spicoli, CHS 1999, joins host Josh Bucy to talk about his life experiences and Central's impact on him in the latest episode of *Eagle Tales*.

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps our Eagles stay connected to Central High School. To continue to help our Eagles connect to the nest, join Generation "C" today!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)



Chatting at the C, run by current Central High School teacher Ben Boeckman, is a podcast for Omaha Central Eagle Nation! The goal is to share the groundbreaking things that happen at Central High and to get to know people in the Eagle family. Ben interviews different people, from the legends of Central to new teachers just getting their start. You can find podcast episodes on [Spotify!](#)

The latest podcast includes a conversation with Ms. Lindsay Cisco, an art teacher at Central.

[Class of 1978 Reunion](#)



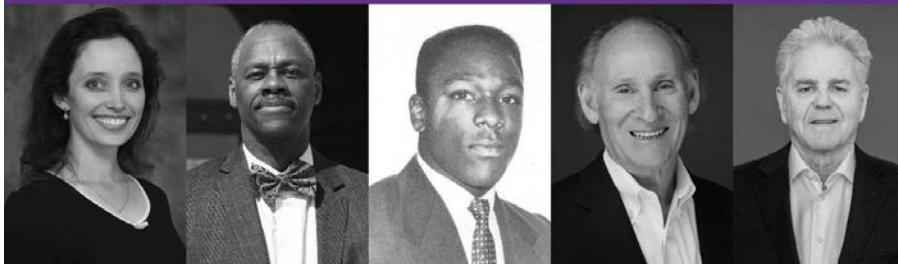
The class of 1978 held their 45th class reunion on the weekend of August 11, 2023. On Friday night, the group enjoyed a social mixer at Legends in Aksarben. A tour of the school led by members of the JROTC and student council was held Saturday morning. At the last reunion in 2018, classmates remembered seeing the beginning of the school renovation. The completed Arts and Library Addition left the class in awe! A pizza outing at Smokin' Oak Pizza in Midtown followed the conclusion of the school tour. To cap off the evening, festivities were held at Field Club of Omaha and ended with fireworks provided by Field Club! It was great to see friends from near and far, and classmates are looking forward to their 50th reunion in 5 years!

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

[Register for the Hall of Fame](#)



2023 Hall of Fame Inductees



The 24th Annual CHS Hall of Fame will held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at the Holland Performing Arts Center. The Central High School Alumni Association is proud to induct 11 individuals whose paths from the halls of

Central High School led them to the highest levels of achievement in business and community service. [RSVP now](#) to come celebrate this special day with your fellow Eagles! Inductees are selected by the Central High School Alumni Association and the program is presented by the Central High School Foundation.

Schedule of Events

Social Hour: 5:30 PM

Dinner: 6:15 PM

Ceremony: 7:30 PM

Registration is \$60 per person or \$480 for a table of eight. Please contact the Foundation office at 402-556-1996 with any questions or click the button below to register online.

[Register for the Hall of Fame](#)



Susan Breeding, CHS 1974. Breeding has worked as an Emmy Award-winning reporter and anchor in some of the nation's largest TV markets. She launched her career in Sioux City before advancing to a reporter job in Phoenix. There she won three regional Emmy awards, a UNL journalism alumni award, and was honored by Arizona's governor for outstanding service to the community. She then moved to the nation's second largest TV market in Los Angeles, where assignments ranged from covering disasters to interviews with A-list celebrities like Taylor Swift, Tom Hanks, and George Clooney. In 2015, she was hired by Glendale, Arizona, where she is communications director. She is a 2023 Outstanding Woman in Business honoree from Phoenix Business Journal. She provided visionary leadership for 2023's Super Bowl LVII, overseeing communications for Glendale and serving the entire state on the AZ Super Bowl Host Committee's communications team. She also serves on the board of trustees for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which is the governing body for the national Emmy awards.



Hubert "Hub" Brown, CHS 1976. Brown has made his mark in journalism as a TV reporter, anchor and producer and now as an educator of college journalists. Brown received his bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He worked for 15 years for both commercial and public television stations covering state government and public affairs. He launched his teaching career at UNL in 1989 before moving in 1996 to Syracuse University, where he rose to associate dean of research, creativity, international initiatives and diversity. He was named dean of the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications in 2021. In 2016, he was honored with a service award from the Association for Journalism and Communication.

Gregory Erwin, CHS 1958. Erwin combined his legal skills and mind for business to make a mark on his hometown. After graduating at the top of his University of Nebraska law school class, he first worked in New York before returning to Omaha in 1974 and becoming the ninth partner at Kutak Rock. The securities lawyer was credited with



inventing the publicly traded Master Limited Partnership, an innovative financing vehicle that's widely used today. In 1984, he co-founded America First Companies, a novel, publicly traded fund of government-backed mortgages. In 1991, Greg won the contract for Omaha's municipal lottery. Big Red Keno expanded across Nebraska and became one of the nation's largest keno operators. Erwin died in March 2023 at age 82.



Dr. Edward Fogarty, CHS 1989. After graduating from the University of Chicago, Fogarty received his medical degree from UNMC and completed radiology residency at Creighton. As Chair of Radiology at the University of North Dakota he advanced multiple innovations in clinical imaging and medical education. Fogarty's neuroimaging collaboration with Professor of Emergency Medicine Paul

Harch, MD at LSU has validated hyperbaric medicine protocols for the reversal of subacute and chronic neurological injury, including dementia. In 2020, Dr. Fogarty received a Federal CARES ACT Grant to implement countermeasures against COVID19 based on the work of Central Alumnus Albert Crum, MD published in the journal *Antiviral Research*. Search "Hyperbaric Eden" for an Eagle's view of Fogarty's best medical photojournalism.



Bruce Hoberman, CHS 1965. Bruce Hoberman co-founded Homer's Record Stores at the age of 24. Twenty-two years later he sold Homer's, spending the next 10 years working with non-profit organizations. Bruce and his wife became volunteers with USAID, spending over a year living in Sub-Saharan Africa helping develop small and medium size businesses. In 1986, Bruce graduated from Harvard Business School's OPM program for entrepreneurs. In 1988, he won the Business Excellence Achievement Award from the UNL Business School Alumni Association. In 1991, he was named SBA's District II Business

Person of the Year. In 2003, he co-founded Proxibid, serving as Chairman of the Board until the company was sold in 2020. Proxibid grew from a startup to become the largest online auction site in the world. Bruce also serves on the Board of Directors of the Buckle (BKE NYSE).



Richard Kaslow, CHS 1961. Dr. Richard Kaslow has directed ground-breaking federal and academic research into infectious diseases, including HIV. He graduated from Harvard Medical School and attained board certification in internal medicine, infectious disease, and preventive medicine. For 23 years with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, he conducted cohort studies of HIV and other epidemiologic investigations. Thereafter, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for 17 years, his teams identified genetic determinants of HIV, hepatitis B vaccine response, and other

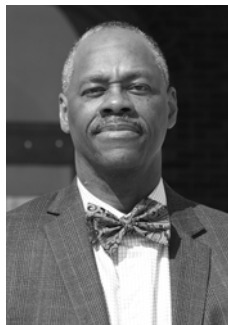
conditions. As a senior executive at the Veterans Health Administration for the next five years, he oversaw work on epidemiologic issues ranging from pandemic preparedness to health effects of environmental exposure during deployment. He collaborated on more than 250 scholarly publications and continues to edit a widely used textbook on human viral diseases. Dr. Kaslow served as President of the American College of Epidemiology, and in 2009 the American Public Health Association recognized him with the John Snow

Award for outstanding contributions to epidemiology.



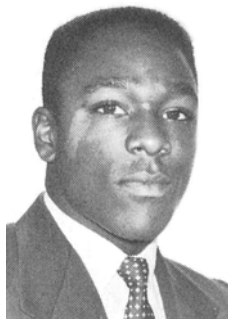
Rachel Tomlinson Mindrup, CHS 1992. A professional artist and art educator, Mindrup has used her talents to promote awareness and raise funds to fight the genetic disease Neurofibromatosis (NF). Mindrup received her master of fine arts from the Art Institution of Boston at Lesley University and also studied at the Art Academy of Los Angeles. Her life changed when her son was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis (NF). Since the disease was little-known and received little research funding, she began painting portraits for people who donated to NF charities. Her “Many Faces of NF” collection has been shown internationally. In

2020, she was appointed as the Richard L. Deming, MD endowed chair of medical humanities in Creighton University’s School of Medicine, bringing together art and medicine. Mindrup’s work has been shown nationally and internationally including the Queens Museum in Queens, NY, Creighton University, Georgia Regents University, Positive Exposure in NYC, Vanderbilt University and Washington University Medical School.



Rodney Mullen, Distinguished Educator. Mullen made his mark during 24 years at Central as an award-winning history teacher. After the OPS and UNO graduate joined Central in 1999, he showed dedication to both his profession and students. Particularly passionate about African-American history, he helped uncover lost history of Omaha’s minority communities as part of the OPS Making Invisible Histories Visible program. Before retiring in 2022, he was honored as Central’s teacher of the year (2019), with the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award (2020) and History Nebraska’s Excellence in Teaching Award (2022). “I know

I’m not the smartest teacher, and I’m not the most gifted teacher, but I pride myself on being the hardest-working teacher,” he said.



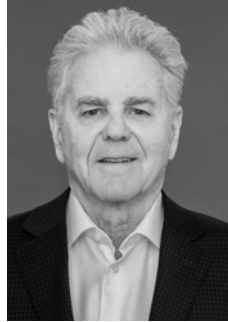
Harold "Art" Reynolds, CHS 1958. Reynolds served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps before retiring to mentor youth in California. As a senior at Central, Reynolds was a standout and leader on the school’s state runner-up football team, state runner-up basketball team, and city champ baseball team, making for one of the most successful athletic years ever at Central. Reynolds then enlisted in the U.S. Navy. To be closer to the action, he volunteered for the Marines. He served three combat tours in Vietnam, twice wounded and awarded Purple Hearts. He spent 23 years in the corps as a gunnery sergeant and drill

instructor. Upon retirement, he coached and mentored youth in Santa Ana, California, including serving as a volunteer probationary counselor for at-risk youth.

David Slosburg, CHS 1970. After graduating from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Slosburg returned to Omaha to help expand the family real estate development company into one of the region’s largest, with multifamily and commercial developments in six states. Slosburg has been an active contributor and advocate for significant civic developments including the Holland, Do Space, Steel House and the new City Library. Slosburg currently serves on the boards of the Omaha Symphony (Chairman), Heritage Omaha, Omaha Performing Arts (Vice Chairman) and National Committee for the Performing Arts of the Kennedy Center. His extensive involvement with Central includes being both Principal initiator and Co-Chair of the committee that spearheaded fundraising



for the Central library and arts addition. Slosburg also served as the Chairman of the Penn Alumni Committee in Omaha for 30 years. Honorariums include Inclusive Communities Humanitarian of the Year, Mary and Richard Holland Leadership Award, induction into the College Squash Association Hall of Fame, and he received the National “2013 Star of Touring Broadway Award” from the Broadway League.



Richard Zacharia, CHS 1961. Zacharia has been a prominent figure in Omaha accounting circles and a strong advocate for Central. After graduating from Penn’s Wharton School of Business, he returned to Omaha, and in 1969 joined the firm now called Frankel Zacharia. He served as managing partner for 25 years and grew it into one of Nebraska’s biggest independent firms. While at Penn he was

Head Cheerleader, elected to Phi Kappa Beta Junior Honor Society, and elected to the Sphinx Senior Society. He served for 10 years on the state board of public accountancy. After retiring in 2015, he received a distinguished service award from the state’s society of CPAs. Zacharia has served as an active member and officer in the Central Alumni Association. He also has served as a volunteer and officer for several community organizations, including the Jewish Community Center Board of Directors, the Jewish Federation Board of Directors and the Johnny Rodgers’ Jet Award Foundation.

Class of 1993 Reunion



There were many smiles and laughs as classmates talked about old memories while making new ones at their 30-year class reunion. The reunion weekend kicked off with a home football game against Gretna before a post-game celebration in the Blackstone District. Eagles reconvened Saturday morning for breakfast and a tour of the school. The reunion weekend wrapped up with dinner, drinks, and door prizes at the Backlot Taphouse in Aksarben Village.

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

Your Impact: World War I Museum in Kansas City

This past weekend, Mr. Scott Wilson took his freshman U.S. History class to the National World War I Museum in Kansas City. World War I is the first topic in the freshman U.S. History class, and the national WWI Museum is a world-class gallery and enhances their learning in a way that the classroom cannot. This is an incredible opportunity to build curiosity, content knowledge, and increase achievement in the classroom.



Funding from the Foundation made this trip possible for students. Not only was their museum admission covered, but the grant also covered the bus trip to Kansas City and lunch.

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](#)

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.

[View the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

Share Your Memories From Your Time at Central



Did you know that the Central High School Foundation collects the memories of our alumni to paint a full, bright picture of life at Central for future generations? In fact, you can read all of the memories others have submitted on our [website](#)!

We would love to hear from you!

Submit your memory to the Central High School Foundation!
You can also share photos of your time at Central, which will be entered into our archives!

[Submit Your Memory](#)

[2023 Class Reunion Schedule](#)



Members of the Class of '72 at their reunion in 2022

Upcoming Reunion Schedule

[Class of 1958](#)

September 23, 2023

[Contact Jackie McLellan](#)

[Class of 1963](#)

CANCELLED

[Contact Lyle Karre](#)

[Class of 1970](#)

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

[Class of 1973](#)

October 13-14, 2023

omahacentral73reunion50.myevent.com

[Class of 1974](#)

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact [Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#)

[Class of 1983](#)

September 29 – 30, 2023

Email Contact: centralclassof83@yahoo.com

Facebook Page: [Omaha Central Class of '83](#)

Reunion Website: <https://myevent.com/CHS1983-40th>

[Class of 2003](#)

September 29-30, 2023

eaglesunite03@outlook.com or [Facebook](#)

[Class of 2013](#)

September 29-30, 2023

[Mecca Slaughter](#)

402-981-7351

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

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.

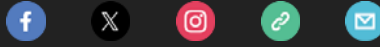
It's easy to do! Just go to the link tagg.today, snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

Follow and Like Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)? Follow and Like us across the social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news. As we hit fan milestones on each platform we will be giving out great prizes! Keep an eye out!

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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